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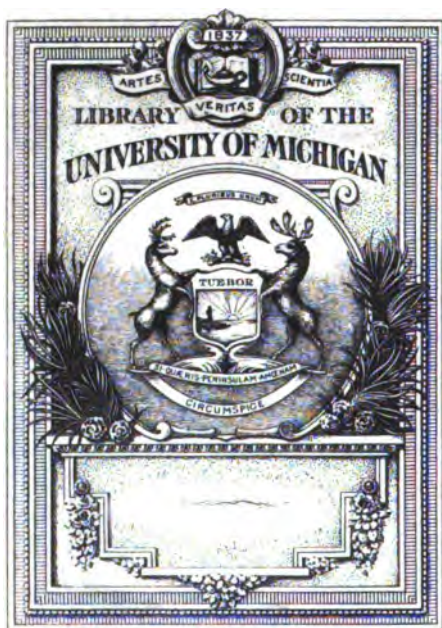
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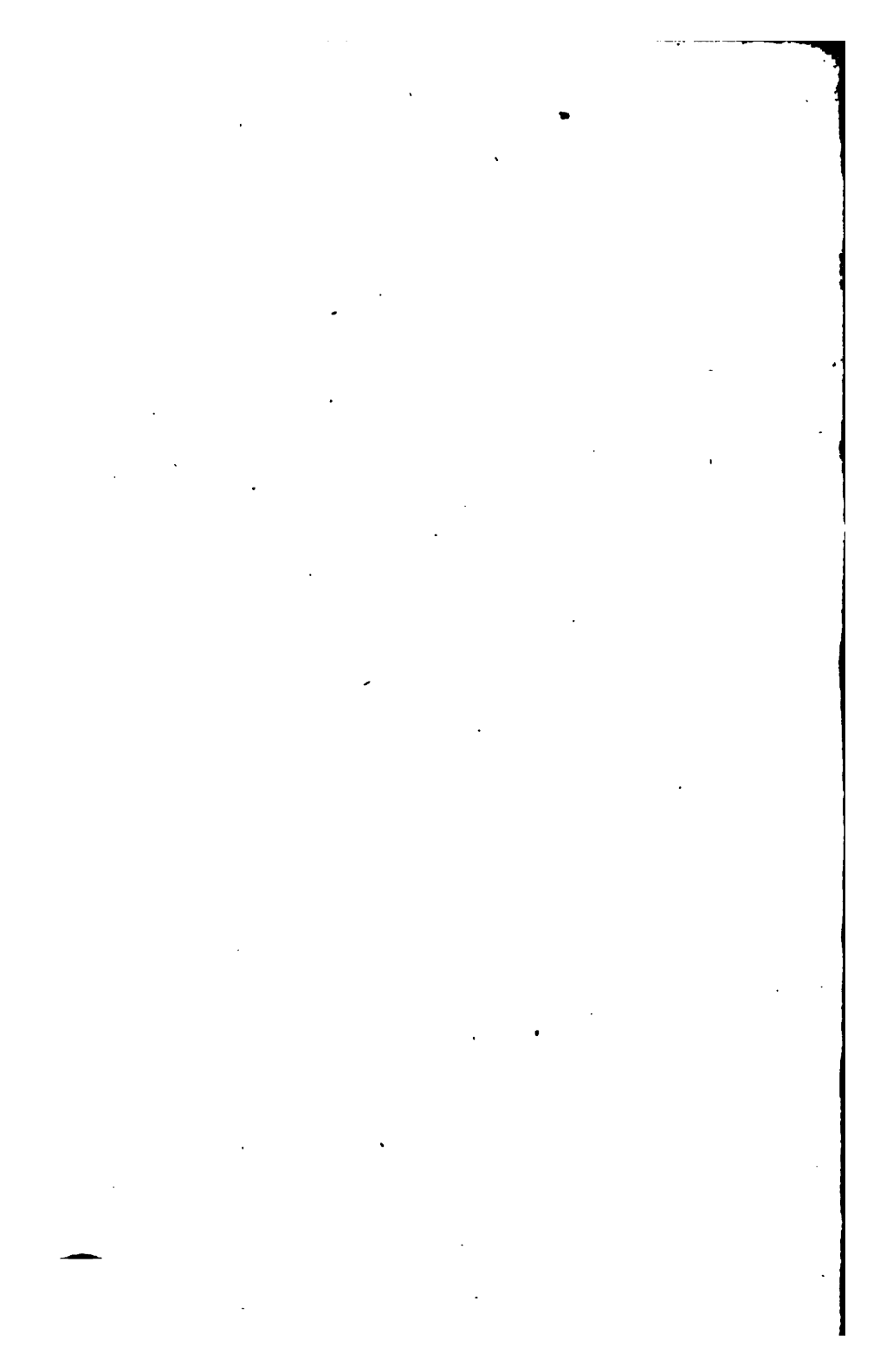
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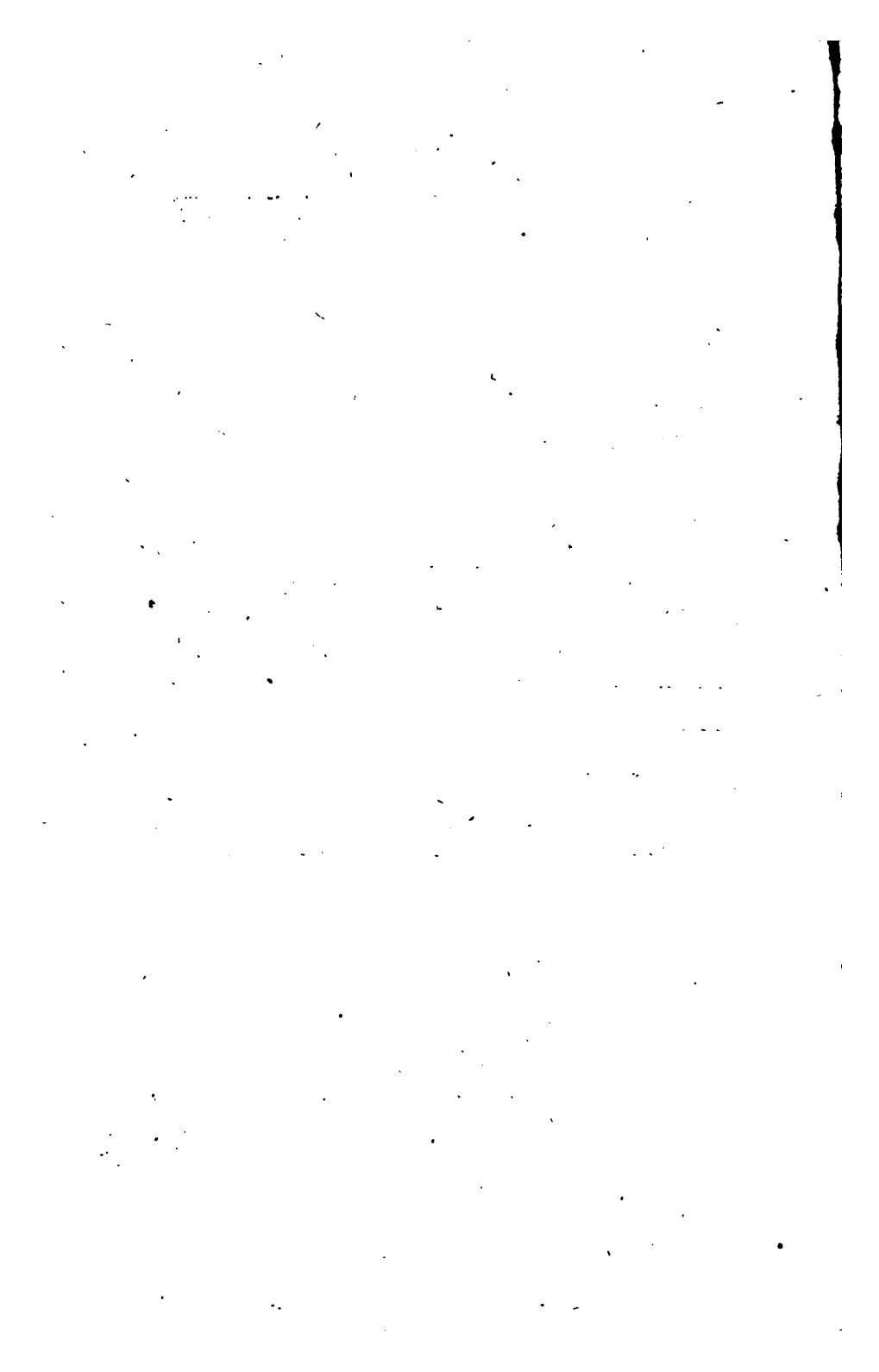
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THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.



THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS
OF THE
MINISTERS
OF THE
DIFFERENT PARISHES.

By SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

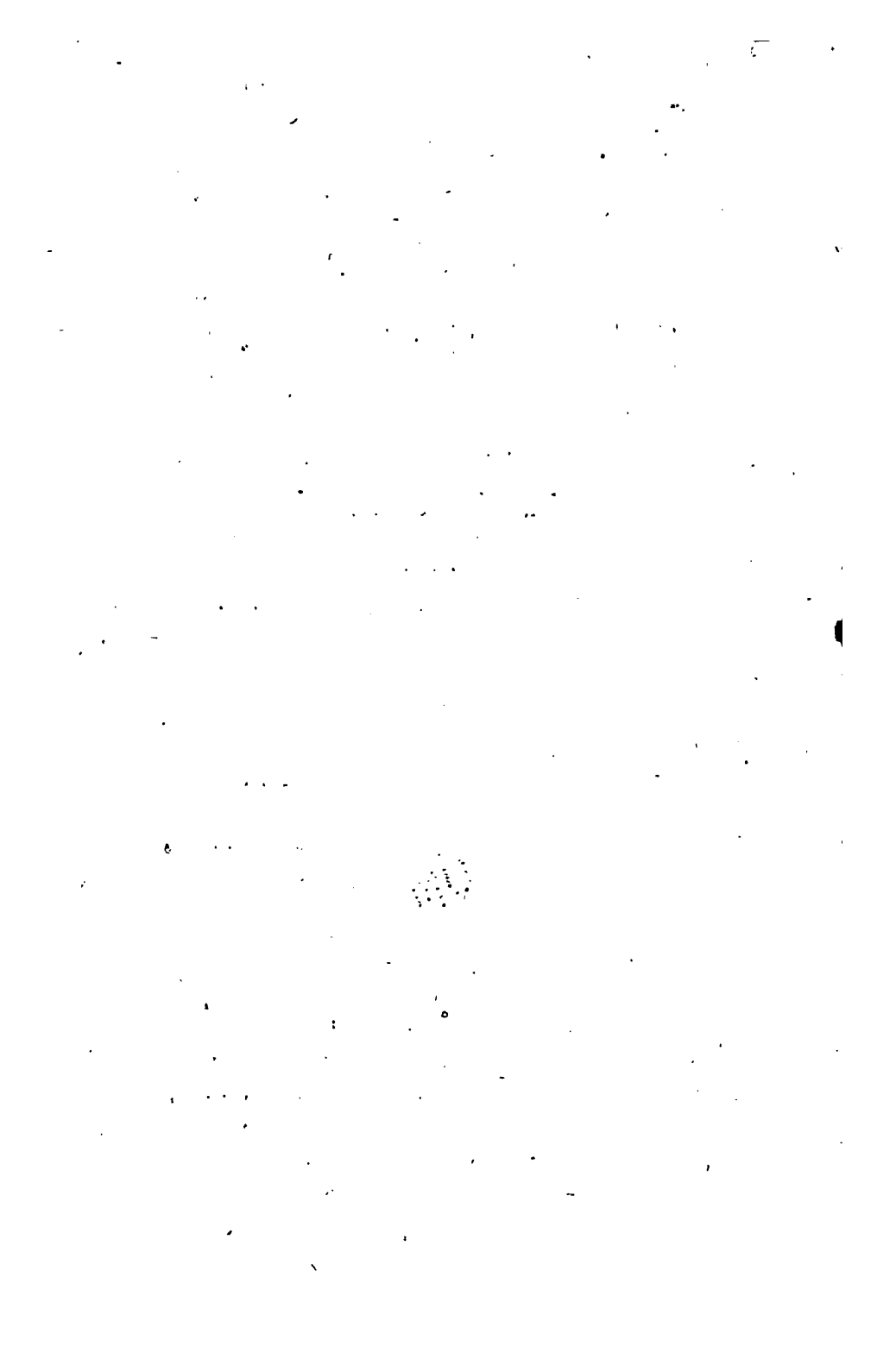
VOLUME SEVENTEENTH.

"Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam."
CICERO, de Orat. lib. ii.

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43	Glafterton -	809	990	91		581
44	Tibbermuir -	988	1280	292		631
	Total,	52,790	61,988	11,151	1953	
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THE

DIRECTION TO THE BINDER.

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STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

PART XVII.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF COUPAR OF ANGUS.

(COUNTIES OF PERTH AND FORFAR.—PRESBYTERY OF
MEIGLE.—SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.)

By Mr JOHN RITCHIE Student in Divinity at Markinch.

Situation and Extent.

THE parish of COUPAR lies towards the center of the spacious valley of Strathmore. Though designed of *Angus*, the greatest part of it is situated in the county of *Perth*. The distance from the latter is 12 miles, and from Dundee nearly the same. The river *Illa* is its northern boundary. The length of the parish is about 5 miles, in the direction of S. W. and N. E. The breadth is from 1 to 2 miles. *Kinloch* and *Batmyle*, formerly belonged to this parish, but are now annexed to that of Meigle.

Surface and Soil.—The parish is divided, length-ways, by a ridge or bank of considerable height. The ascent of this bank from the south is easy; from the north it is steeper. Contiguous, on the north side, lie the Haughs of Isla, containing upwards of 600 acres of a strong clayey soil. These haughs produce excellent crops of corn and grass. It frequently happens, that, after northerly rains, the Isla is swelled to such a degree, as to lay the adjacent banks and haughs under water to a great extent; and, in time of harvest, these inundations have been known to carry off large quantities of corn. Wherever the ground is elevated in any degree, the soil is light and gravelly; in the low grounds the soil is either of a clayey or loamy nature. The *Watton Mire* is a common of considerable magnitude, containing nearly 200 acres. The people of the parish were wont to repair thither for turf and fods, which they used in part as fuel. It is now totally useless in this respect. Several overtures have been made to have this common partitioned among the heritors, but none have yet succeeded. Were it drained, and sheltered with planting, it might turn to advantage. It now presents a bleak and barren appearance in the heart of a rich corn country. The only plantation ground is in the west end of the parish, containing from 50 to 100 acres of common fir, the property of Lord Privy Seal. In many places of the parish and country adjacent, we meet with a red earth of a clayey unctuous nature, commonly called *mortar*, and sometimes used in building. It is found a few inches below the surface, and reaches to a considerable depth. Below this stratum of red earth is found a soft stone of the same colour, which is, evidently, the same earth in a consolidated form.

Agriculture.—The lands are now generally inclosed with thorn hedges. Formerly, the distinction between *Outfield* and
Infield

Infield was constantly observed. The former was cropped alternately with oats and bear; the latter, after a few successive crops of oats, was suffered to lie out a number of years in lea. The *run-rigg* prevailed, too, in many places. These absurd practices are now worn out, and the modern improvements generally introduced. Ploughs drawn by cattle were formerly in use. These are now succeeded by ploughs with two horses abreast, where one man both holds and drives.

Produce and Cattle.—Lint-seed is sown in considerable quantities; and, when the seasons prove favourable it succeeds very well; the lippie of seed frequently giving a stone of dressed flax. Half a century ago no wheat was raised in Coupar. The quantity is still inconsiderable, owing to the difficulty of procuring manure. No field beans are raised. Oats, barley, and pease, are the grain in most request. The barley is either sold to the brewers in the town of Coupar, or carried to the neighbouring ports, where it is either malted or put on ship-board. The other grain, made into meal, generally finds a ready market in the populous village of Coupar. The prices of the corn are the same as in the neighbouring parishes. The grasses sown are rye-grass and red clover. No hay is made but for home consumption. A few acres are generally fallowed in summer, and fields of turnips reared for the cattle against winter. Each tenant brings up young cattle in proportion to the extent of his farm. These he disposes of to drovers, or such as keep grass parks, who feed them, and take them to Falkirk to meet the English merchants. There are no sheep kept in this district. Potatoes are raised in large quantities, and are of great service to the poor. It is not much above 20 years, since this useful root came into general use in this parish.

Leases.—The farms are commonly let for a term of 19 years,

a period by far too short to rouse the exertion of the tenant, and induce him to employ that labour and expence, in meliorating the soil, which he might have in his power. Proprietors of land, it is presumed, would find it ultimately to the advantage of their estates, did they give more scope to the farmer, by granting him a lease of triple the ordinary time. In such a case it might be stipulated, too, that the proprietor should receive a certain sum of money upon the expiration of an ordinary lease. At the commencement of the latest leases the rents have been nearly doubled. The land, at an average, brings about 16s. per acre, though some farms are let at above 20s. per acre. The number of acres in the whole parish, by a gross calculation, is about 2400, without including the commons; and the present rent is 2214l.

Climate, Diseases, &c.—Remarkable instances of longevity have seldom occurred. A poor woman died a few years ago, who must have been 116 years, from what she remembered to have seen. The situation of the parish is healthy, there being no marshy ground or stagnant water, nor any thing to obstruct a free circulation of air. There are no diseases peculiar to the place. Nervous and hysterical disorders are said to be much more common now than formerly, owing, without doubt, to the way of living, particularly to the more frequent use of spiritous liquors and tea. The prejudices against inoculation are far from being removed, especially among the poorer sort,

Town, Roads, &c.—COUPAR is divided by a rivulet, which, turning the mills of *Kethock*, with two others in its course, falls into the *Illa* *, about 5 miles to the westward. The
Abbey,

* The bridge over the *Illa*, near Coupar, was built in 1765. There

Abbey, with that part of the town which lies on the south of this rivulet, falls within the county of Forfar. The rest of the town and parish are in the county of Perth. The streets are paved, and have lately been provided with lamps. The town has received considerable ornament, as well as advantage, from the excellent turnpike roads that have just been finished. The Perth road, from the west, falls upon the cross in a direct line of about a mile; with this the Dundee road, from the south, forms a right angle; and, when the latter is carried directly through the town, to the east, as is in contemplation, and the ground on each side fenced for building, the beauty will be nearly completed. Several good houses have lately been built here. The steeple was built in 1762, on the spot where the prison of the court of regality stood. The view from the *Beach Hill*, northward of the town, is singularly delightful. The eye contemplates the meanders of the river *Isle*, in its course through a fertile and extensive plain; and, on the other side, a champaign open country, variegated with thriving villages and fruitful fields. There is a weekly market on Thursday, and fairs in April, May, July, and December. Coupar is supposed to have tripled the number of its inhabitants within the last half century. This increase is chiefly owing to the encouragement given to the manufacturing of linen in this part of the country, and partly to the monopolising of farms, by which small tenants and trades people have been obliged to remove to manufacturing towns.

Villages, Mills, &c.—Next to Coupar, the greatest villages are *Balbrogie*, *Wellton*, and *Cadam*; and the number of families in the largest of these does not exceed 35. There is scarcely

There is no bridge between that and Perth on the one side, nor between it and the bridge of *Deane* on the other.

ly a garden in the parish that deserves the name; culinary productions being more regarded than ornament or elegance. There are 2 rivulets and 5 mills; 1 in Coupar, 3 in Kethock, and 1 in Balgirsho.

Manufactures.—There is a tannery in Coupar, which was built in 1781, wherein about 2600 hides of different kinds are dressed annually, and 9000 stone of bark used. There is also a very considerable linen manufacture *. In 1792, there were stamped at the stamp-office in this town, all manufactured in the course of that year, and within the bounds of the parish, 97,810 yards of brown linen (in about 600 reed), and 116,793 yards of *harn*. Both these kinds are sent to the English market. The linen is whitened at the bleachfields in the neighbourhood, is used for buckram and hat linings, and is worth about 9 d. per yard. The *harn* is used for pack-sheet, and is worth about 5 d. per yard. There is but one bleachfield in the parish, viz. that at Balgirsho, at which there are annually whitened about 200,000 yards. The number last year (1793) was only 90,000 yards. There are 4 whisky stills in the parish, 3 of 40 gallons, and 1 of 30.

Population.—The population of this parish has increased considerably within these 40 years, as will appear from the following Table:

POPULA-

* The introduction of the linen manufacture, into this parish and neighbourhood, was principally owing to GEORGE YOUNG, late a merchant in this town, a man of an uncommon capacity for business and improvements. This man found means, by petitioning the Board of Trustees for the Forfeited Estates of Scotland, to procure a survey, and estimate of expence, for a CANAL between PERTH and FORFAR by this place. The plan was formed on a scale too expensive for the state of the country at that time, and was consequently dropt.

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF COUPAR.

Population in 1793	-	-	-	-	-	2076
Ditto in 1755	-	-	-	-	-	1491

		Increase	-	585
Annual average of births	-	-	-	60
Ditto of marriages	-	-	-	15
Ditto of burials	-	-	-	41

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number of souls under 10 years old	182	214	396
— between 10 and 20	192	179	371
— 20 and 30	212	216	428
— 30 and 40	162	201	363
— 40 and 50	118	113	231
— 50 and 60	66	87	153
— 60 and 70	54	55	109
— 70 and 80	7	14	21
— 80 and 90	6	3	9
	999	1082	2081
— in the town of Coupar	753	851	1604
— in the country	246	231	477
— unmarried persons	57	70	127
— widowers and widows	40	67	107
— dissenters	213	268	481
— servants *	94	126	220
— journeymen and apprentices	-	-	58

Number

* A man servant's yearly wages are from 9 l. to 11 l.; a woman servant's from 3 l. to 4 l.; 1 pound (22 oz.) butter, 9 d. Beef sells at from 3 d. to 4 d. per pound; a good hen from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. A mason's wages are 1 s. 6 d. per day; a taylor's 10 d.; a man's hire for the harvest 1 l. 10 s.; a woman's ditto 1 l.; a labourer's wages per day, with victuals, 1 s. In general, the price of every thing is raised one third within these last 40 years.

Number of families in Coupar	-	-	-	520
— ditto in the country	-	-	-	118
— ditto of Episcopals	-	-	-	5
— ditto of Roman Catholics	-	-	-	3

PROFESSIONS.

Minister	-	-	1	Gardeners	-	-	3
Barbers	-	-	3	Fidlers	-	-	3
Weavers	-	-	101	Carriers to Dundee and			
Sadlers	-	-	2	Perth	-	-	9
Smiths	-	-	8	Ditto to Edinburgh			1
Wrights	-	-	20	Flax-dressers	-	-	11
Day-labourers	-	-	57	Staymaker	-	-	1
Coopers	-	-	3	Milliners and Sempstresses			7
Watchmakers	-	-	3	Bakers	-	-	7
Tailors	-	-	22	Butchers	-	-	9
Plasterer	-	-	1	Brewers	-	-	2
Drovers	-	-	2	Wheel-wrights	-	-	5
Teachers	-	-	5	Dyers	-	-	2
Midwives	-	-	3	Farmers	-	-	43
Surgeons	-	-	3	Masons	-	-	23
Master shoemakers			15	Slaters	-	-	2
Journeyman & apprentices				Merchants	-	-	25
ditto	-	-	15	Excise officers	-	-	3
Stocking-makers	-	-	2	Public-house-keepers			45

Rent, Heritors, Church, Poor, &c.—The valued rent of the parish is 6669 l. 14 s. 4 d. Scotch. The number of heritors is 35. The chief proprietor is the EARL of MURRAY. The Crown is patron. The stipend is 500 merks Scotch, and 6 chalders of victual, with an allowance for the communion elements. The glebe is inconsiderable. The manse was built anew in 1781. The church was repaired in 1780.—There are at present 24 persons on the poor's list, who are supported

ed by the collections at the church doors. The collections, at a medium, including mort-cloth fees, and dues for marriages, amount to about 56 l. *per annum*. The poor's money is distributed to them monthly, and they are allowed from 2 s. to 5 s. at a time. There is an Antiburgher and a Relief meeting-house in Coupar. The latter was built in 1792. They are both well filled, but chiefly from the neighbouring parishes.

School.—The school was rebuilt in 1792, and is large and well lighted. The average number of scholars is about 60. The master is in a valetudinary state, and the school is taught by an assistant. English is taught for 1 s. 6 d. writing and arithmetic at 2 s. 6 d. and Latin at 3 s. per quarter. The salary is 11 l. 2 s. 1½ d. Sterling. Sir John Sinclair, or any other public spirited gentlemen connected with Parliament, who have the interest of their country at heart, must be convinced of the necessity of adopting some plan, to put the parochial teachers in Scotland on a more respectable footing. Their situation, at present, is not equal, in point of emolument, on an average, to that of the meanest mechanic or day labourer.

Disadvantages.—The scarcity of *fuel*, and the great distance from any sea-port, are inconveniencies severely felt by the inhabitants of this district. The mosses, the nearest of which is 6 miles distant, are either totally exhausted, or restricted to the tenants of the ground. To have coals from Perth or Dundee is found, therefore, to be the cheapest expedient. These, considering the distance they have to be driven, and the high expences of carriage, prove very expensive to the poor tradesman. Much, too, of the farmer's time, that would have been laid out in improving his farm, is indispensibly lost

in procuring this necessary article of life. However, the advantages resulting from the excellent roads, that are nearly finished, will soon be felt by the country at large. Some attempts have been made in this country to discover coal, but they have all been abandoned without hope of succeeding. Indeed, from the constant appearances in the most favourable situations, there is reason to conclude, that, if coals are to be found, they must lie at a very great depth. Without adding to what has been said of the practicability of a canal, in the Statistical Account of Meigle *, it may just be observed, that, by leading a canal round the Linn of Campsey, and narrowing the Tay in some places, that river might be made navigable a great way up, by means of horses, and boats constructed on purpose, at a small expence.

Antiquities, &c — There are still visible at Coupar the vestiges of a Roman camp †, said to have been formed by the army

* See Vol. I. No. LIII.

† On the center of this camp, MALCOLM IV. founded an ABBEY for Cistercian Monks, A. D. 1104, and endowed it with large revenues. This house was founded by advice of the Abbot of Melross, who was of the same order; and it is said the Monks were long remarkable for their piety and exemplary lives. From the pavement, and bases of pillars, and subterraneous passages that have been discovered, this Abbey appears to have been a house of considerable magnitude. Next to the Scottish Kings, the HAYS of ERROL were the principal benefactors to the Abbey of Coupar. The latter granted it the lands of Lidderpole, several acres of arable land on the banks of the Tay, and liberty of fishing on that river. The Monks were allowed free passage with their cattle over all the lands belonging to the house of Errol. GILBERT HAY, Constable of Scotland, granted them the patronage of the Church of Errol, and Chapel of Inchmartin, with all their pertinents and rights. In return for these immunities, the house of Errol claimed the privilege of burial in the Abbey. The last Abbot of Coupar was DO-

NALD

my of AGRICOLA in his 7th expedition. It is nearly a regular square of 24 acres. Here the half of the Roman army are supposed to have encamped, while the other remained at Campmuir, a village near two miles S. W. from this place. There are no vestiges of a Roman way, nor any Druidical circle or cairn in the parish *. The *Beach Hill* opposite to Coupar, *Stob-crofs* opposite to *Balbragie*, and the *Witch Know* opposite to Cronan, are evidently raised by art, though tradition is silent respecting the cause. On the first of these a Roman urn was found; and it is said, that justice used to be administered here, in ancient times, in the open air. The following names of places, in the vicinity of Coupar, are said to be descriptive

NALD CAMPBELL of the family of ARGYLL. At the Reformation, this man is said to have divided, among 5 natural sons, all of the parish that belonged to the Abbey, viz. Balgeirsho, Kethock, Denhead, Cronan, and Arthurskone. Some time before the Reformation, this house began to fall into decay; and, at last, a number of furious reformers from Perth completed its ruin.

* Lately, in digging at the west end of the church, there were found upwards of a dozen of stone coffins. Some were formed of one entire stone; others were made up of two pieces brought together in the middle. The inside imitated the shape of the human body, being widest at the shoulders, narrowest at the neck, and having the place for the head rounded. In some there were found several skeletons in the natural positions, with layers of earth placed between them. The covers of most of these coffins consisted of several flat stones; but no date, or character of any kind, was observed, whereby a conjecture might have been formed of their age, or the persons therein deposited. The cover of one was of an entire stone, at the foot of which there was faintly visible some rude kind of ornament, and on the right side a capital English D was observable. One, being measured, was found to be 6 feet long within, 18 inches broad at the shoulders, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide at the feet, and 15 inches deep. One appeared to have been, originally, too narrow, as the sides thereof were widened, seemingly to let down the arms of the corpse. Several small figures, cut out of stone, and representing warriors, have been also dug out from among the rubbish.

scriptive of some relation they bore to the Abbey of this place; *Cowbyre, Balgeirbo, Cottward, Cadam, Soutar-boufes, Drink-fill, Market-hill, and Balbrogie.*

Character, &c.—The inhabitants of this district are sober, frugal, and industrious. They are hospitable and obliging to strangers, and charitable to the poor. In their dealings they are open, unsuspecting, and sincere. Their stature is of the middle size, few exceeding 6 feet high; and their general appearance indicates strength and vigour. Their hair is generally of a darkish hue, though some are to be seen with yellow or flaxen locks. In the article of dress, expence and finery are much more studied than formerly. Not above 40 years ago, the broad blue bonnet, with a coat of home manufacture, was universally worn by the men. The tartan plaid, applied closely over a head dress of linen, was in use among the women. At present, few servant lads are to be seen at church without their coats of English cloth, hats on their heads, and watches in their pockets. At the period just referred to, a watch, an eight day clock, or a tea kettle, were scarcely to be met with. At present, there are few houses without one or other of these articles; perhaps one half of the families in the parish are possessed of all of them,

NUM-

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF KETTINS.

(COUNTY OF FORFAR—SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNES.
—PRESBYTERY OF MEIGLE.)

By Mr JOHN RITCHIE, Student in Divinity at Markinch.

Extent, Situation, and Roads.

THE length of the parish of KETTINS, from E. to W. is 4 miles; the breadth, from S. to N. is 3. The village of Kettins is distant from Perth about 12 miles E. by N. and about 14 N. W. from Dundee. The church is 1 mile S. E. of Coupar. The turnpike road, from the latter to Dundee, passes through the parish. It is not yet finished. A road extends to Perth along the foot of the Sidla hills, but is not frequented.

Gentlemen's Seats, Surface, &c.—*Lintrose*, the seat of MUNGO MURRAY, Esq; was formerly called *Todderance*, and belonged to ——— *Haliburton*, Esq; whose grand-father, Lord TODDERANCE, was a Senator of the College of Justice, and a nephew of the house of Pitcur. Lintrose is a mile westward of the church, and is environed by fertile fields and thriving plantations. *Haliburton House*, a modern mansion, upwards of half a mile S. E. of Kettins, formerly the ordinary residence of the family of that name, is now the property

property of Lord Aboyne *. It stands in a plain, and is surrounded by stately plantations. A detached part of the parish, called *Bandirran*, lies about 6 miles S. W. and contains a gentleman's seat. The greatest part of the parish is level, and inclosed with hedges of thorn, or fenced with stone dykes. The south part gradually rises to the summit of the Sidla hills, and is partly covered with heath and pasture.

Villages, Rivulets, and Mills.—Kettins has 7 villages belonging to it, and is itself the largest. The village of that name, where the church stands, is pleasantly situated on a rivulet, which descends from the Sidla hills, and passing through Coupar, loses itself in the Isla, near 5 miles W. of the latter town, after having turned 5 mills in its course. The number of rivulets within the parish is 2, and they serve 10 mills.

Soil.—The soil is various. A great part of the low parish, the higher grounds chiefly, and the hill ground, have a light thin soil, and are partly covered with heath and pasture. In many places a strong red clay or mortar prevails, and in some it is wet and spongy. The greater part of the parish, however, is tolerably fertile. Much of this district is let to small tenants, who, besides farming, follow some trades, chiefly that of weaving coarse linen.

Agriculture, Produce, Cattle, &c.—The same manner of cropping

* The family of HALIBURTON were very active in bringing about the Reformation of the Church of Scotland, and in the last century had an extensive property in this country. The Castle of PITCUR, a mile south of the church, and now in ruins, gave title to the ancient and honourable family of HALIBURTON, the chief of that name.

cropping and improvements, that is followed in Coupar and the neighbouring parishes, is practised here, and the produce is much in the same proportion: Here, too, the same disadvantages, scarcity of firing, and the distance from lime and coal, operate as a check on the industry and improvement of the farmer.—There are a few dealers in cattle in the parish, who keep grass parks, and drive their fed cattle to Falkirk, or to England.—There are now no sheep in the parish. A few were kept to pasture on the hill of Peatie till lately.

Rent and Proprietors.—The valued rent of the parish is 5129l. 16s. 8d. Scotch. The present rent is unknown. The land, at a medium, lets at 17s. Sterling per acre.—The number of heritors is 8, whereof 7 are resident. Lord ABOYNE is chief heritor.

Ecclesiastical State.—The Crown is patron. The stipend was formerly 8 chalders 9 bolls 7 pecks of victual, but has been lately augmented. The church was built in 1768*, and repaired in 1791. The manse was built from the foundation in 1792. The name of the present incumbent is JOHN HALIBURTON.

Poor and School.—The poor's money, collected at the church doors, together with a rent arising from a mortification on land, amounts to 50l. yearly. The number of poor at present on the roll is 14. The school house was repaired in 1782. The salary was augmented in 1790, by a decret of the

* The church of KETTINS anciently had six chapels depending on it, viz. one at a village called *Peatie*, another at *South Coston*, a third at *Piteur*, a fourth at *Muirysaulds*, a fifth at *Denshead*, and a sixth on the south side of the village of Kettins. Most of these were within small inclosures used as burying

the Commissioners of Supply. It was formerly 100 l. Scotch. The present schoolmaster has taught with reputation a good number of years, and has, with his small emoluments, brought up a numerous family.

Population.—The population of Kettins has varied at different periods, as will appear from the following table :

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF KETTINS.

In 1726, the number of examinable persons above 12 years of age, was *	-	-	-	-	1100
To which may be added, for those under that age, at least	-	-	-	-	300
					<hr/> 1400
In 1755, the return to Dr Webster was	-	-			1475
					<hr/>
				Increase in 30 years	75
In 1793, the total number of inhabitants was only					1100
					<hr/>
				Decrease in 38 years	375
					<hr/>
Total number of baptisms, from 1722 to 1726, inclusive	-	-	-	-	450
Annual average of ditto during that period	-				90
Ditto of ditto, from 1751 to 1755, inclusive	-				45
Ditto of burials, during that period	-	-			40
Ditto of ditto, from 1787 to 1791, inclusive †.					33
					<hr/>
				Families	

* The register of births and marriages has not been regularly kept for some years past. There are no session records prior to the 9th of August 1650.—A record of that date mentions two kirk-session registers before that period.

† There is nothing remarkable in the proportion of males and females, nor in the prices of labour, or of the necessaries of life, in this district, different from those of Coupar.

Families in the parish	218	Teachers	-	-	3
Families in Kettins	40	Brewers	-	-	2
Roman Catholic ditto	1	Smiths	-	-	6
Widowers	-	Wrights	-	-	13
Widows	-	Sieve-makers	-	-	3
Bachelors	-	Day-labourers	-	-	27
Unmarried women	4	Masons	-	-	2
Weavers	-	Cooper	-	-	1
Looms	-	Flax-dressers	-	-	3
Farmers	-	Gardeners	-	-	2
Drovers	-	Bleachers	-	-	3
Shoemakers	-	Public houses	-	-	5

Bleachfields, Longevity, &c.—There are 3 bleachfields in the parish, *Borland, Baldinnie, and Kirk-steps*. The two first whiten annually 100,000 yards, the last about 30,000 yards. —Few very remarkable instances of longevity have occurred within the recollection of the inhabitants, though to hear of people dying at the advanced age of 90 and upwards is not uncommon. There was a man alive last autumn (1793) at the age of 106. There are no epidemic diseases peculiar to this parish. Inoculation for the small-pox is by no means general, especially among the lower classes.

Antiquities.—There are no Roman ways, nor Druidical circles in the parish *. At *Camp-muir*, a village belonging to

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Kettins,

* Some tumuli have lately been found in this parish, when digging materials for the turnpike road: One at Pitcur contained at least 1000 load of stones. In the center of this cairn, a few flat unwrought stones, and without date or characters, contained some human bones. A cairn of a very small size was found a mile farther south on the new line of road, and scarce distinguishable from the pasture around. In the center, an urn was found full of bones.

Kettins, and upwards of a mile N. W. of the church, there are still visible the outlines of a camp, supposed to be Roman, as noticed in the account of Coupar. At Baldowrie there is an erect Danish monument, 6 feet high. It contains some figures, but they are almost entirely defaced.—The Castle of *Dores* stood on the summit of the hill *, south from Pitcur. Tradition reports it to have been some time the residence of MACBETH. The following names are doubtless of Celtic derivation: *Baldowrie*, *Baldinnie*, *Balunie*, *Balgove*, and *Airdlair*.

* On this hill, great quantities of ashes are said to have been discovered. From this circumstance, it is concluded to have been one of those hills, where fires used to be kindled in antient times, to alarm the country on the approach of an enemy. On the east quarter of this hill, and closely by the side of the new road, the workmen quarrying stones came upon an excavation in the solid rock, in which they found some half consumed bones of a soft consistence. The hole was about 3 feet wide either way, and seemed to direct its course towards the south. There was no entrance from above observed, for at least half a mile in any direction from this place.

NUM-

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF LATHERON.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF CAITHNESS.—SYNOD OF
CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND).

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT GUN, Minister.

Name, Erection, and Extent.

THE antient name is LOINN, derived from *Luidboin*, which signifies, in the Erse, or Gaelic, *lodged or bedded bear*, because the lands contiguous to the church are of a good quality, and yield excellent bear. The modern or English name is *Latheron*.—The parish was formerly divided into two parishes at least, if not more. In the title-deeds of Borg, a part of the estate of Dunbeath, it is designed the town and lands of Nether Borg, lying in the parish of Dunbeath, and shire of Inverness*.—The parish is 27 miles in length along the sea coast, and from 10 to 15 miles in breadth in different parts.

Roads.—The principal, or only proper road from the south to Caithness and Orkney, along the Ord of Caithness, which

* In the history of the wars in Scotland, there is mention made, that, in consequence of some dissensions between the Earls of SUTHERLAND and CAITHNESS, the former sent 200 men into Caithness in February 1588, who over-ran the parishes of Dunbeath and Latheron in a hostile manner.

which divides Caithness from Sutherland, passes through this parish. This road, when it comes within a mile of the minister's house, divides itself into two roads, the one passing along the sea-side to Wick, and the other crossing the country by the Causaymire towards Thurso.

Surface, Hills, Sea Coast, Soil, &c.—The appearance of the parish is diversified, partly flat and partly hilly, or mountainous.—The coast is bold and rocky, rising perpendicular, in many parts 100 yards and upwards, above the level of the sea.—There are immense tracts of moss and muir ground.—There are three large hills or mountains (besides many smaller ones), *Morvine*, *Scarabine*, and *Maiden-Pap*. The top of Morvine is supposed to be more than a mile above the level of the sea. With a clear sky, one will see from it a part of 10 or 12 different shires. There is a fine spring near the top of it.—The coast is intersected by several straths, on waters running from the hilly part of the parish towards the sea. The straths are surrounded with hills or high lands, which are covered with heath or pasture, interspersed with a little brushwood. The soil in general is sharp, in some parts a strong rich clay, in others inclining to *grit*, or gravel, but in most parts interspersed with masses of detached rocks, and loose stones, the naked rock appearing often in the arable lands. The cultivated lands are generally shallow, yet productive of pretty heavy crops. What is not cultivated has in general a poor appearance, excepting the pasture and woodlands in the different straths.

Climate, Diseases, and Longevity.—The climate in general is dry and healthy.—The most prevalent diseases are fevers, fluxes, and rheumatisms. Fluxes were very prevalent among the common people in 1782 and 1783, owing, it is supposed,

to

to the unfavourable seasons, and the corns being damaged. Why rheumatisms are much more frequent among the country people now than formerly, no other causes can be assigned, than the immoderate use of spirituous liquors, and that they now wear linen next their skin, instead of a coarse kind of woollen stuff of their own making, which they formerly used to wear. Several have died lately about 90 years of age; one man in particular, HENRY CHRISTIAN in Lybster, died in 1786, who could not be less than from 110 to 120 years of age, by his own account. He was considered as an old man in the infancy of the oldest people alive in his neighbourhood.

Mineral Springs, Rivers, Lakes, &c.—There are many springs in the parish slightly impregnated with iron, though none of any great importance.—There are three small rivers, *Dunbeath*, *Langwall*, and *Berrindale*. The two last join within 100 yards of the sea. In these rivers are caught salmon and trouts.—There are two small lakes, *Ranga* and *Stempster*, where trouts and eels are found. In the side of the former, there are the ruins of a small fortification, and contiguous to the latter, the remains of a Druidical temple, and the arch-druid's house.

Fisheries.—There are no fewer than 20 different species of fish caught on this coast. Besides the various kinds of fish consumed by the inhabitants, such as turbot, skate, haddocks, whittings, cuddings, fellags, dog-fish, mackerels, flounders, &c. there are three fishings carried on for exportation, the cod and ling, the herring, and the lobster. The cod fishing has been carried on for many years. The stations are Dunbeath, Toise, and Clyth. The herring fishing was only attempted within these four years, and promises to be successful.

ful. The stations are Dunbeath and Clyth. It is commonly about the beginning or middle of July, before they appear in such shoals as to induce the fishermen to shoot their nets. This fishing continues to the beginning, or even the middle of September. The lobster fishing only commenced last spring, (1793), and such numbers do they catch, that many of them die before the smacks take them away, the chests being so full. The stations are Dunbeath and Lybster. Two English companies have sent boats and crews to fish this season. The inhabitants propose to carry on the lobster fishing against next season. These companies have a concern in the cod and herring fisheries. There are from 40 to 50 boats of different sizes in the parish.

Proposed Harbours, &c.—In order to improve the fisheries on this coast, nothing would be of greater importance than having two or three good harbours. Dunbeath and Lybster seem to be the places best calculated for this purpose. Something might also be done at Clyth and Berrindale, at a moderate expence. It would likewise be of advantage to get some fishermen to settle from other parts, and to have the present fishers confined to a house and garden, instead of labouring small tacks, as they do at present, which makes the fishing but a secondary consideration with them.

Population.—As the records have not been regularly kept, the antient state of the population cannot be precisely ascertained. This much, however, is pretty certain, that there are nearly double the number of inhabitants now, that there were about 70 years ago, when Mr Andrew Sutherland, the then incumbent, obtained an augmentation to his living.

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF LATHERON.

Number of males in 1791	-	-	1742
Femalecs	-	-	2264
Total number of Souls	-	-	4006
Ditto in 1755, as returned to Dr Webster	-	-	3675

		Increase	331
Number of families	-	-	796
Average of baptisms	-	-	101
Ditto of marriages *	-	-	23

Persons below 10 years of age	-	-	1042
between 10 and 20	-	-	645
20 and 50	-	-	1744
50 and 60	-	-	424
aged 60 and upwards	-	-	151

			4006
Number of resident heritors	-	-	4
non-resident ditto	-	-	4
Families of Seceders (Antiburghers)	-	-	20
Ditto of Roman Catholics	-	-	1
Number of weavers †	-	-	20
Shoemakers	-	-	15
Taylors	-	-	16
Wrighte	-	-	4
Mafons	-	-	7
Smiths	-	-	6
Shop-keepers	-	-	4

Number

* The number of deaths cannot be ascertained, as there are 8 different burial places in the parish.

† Most of the tradesmen have small tacks of land, in the cultivation of which a good deal of their time is taken up.

Number of Inn-keepers and whisky sellers	-	30
Men servants	-	114
Women ditto	-	223

Church.—The present incumbent was settled in September 1775. The stipend has been lately augmented, and now amounts to 1000 merks Scotch, besides 60 l. Scotch for communion elements, and 6 chalders of victual, half meal half bear. There is also a glebe consisting of 6 acres arable ground, and some grass. Both church and manse were built about 60 years ago. They were repaired soon after the present incumbent's admission. They are at present undergoing a trifling reparation.—Miss Scot of Scotstarvet is patron.—There is a missionary at present employed, between the extremities of this parish and the parish of Halkirk, who is principally supported by the people who have the benefit of hearing him.—Excepting the few families above mentioned, all the inhabitants belong to the established church.

Schools.—There is a parochial school. The master's salary is 100 merks Scotch, with 20 l. Scotch for officiating as session clerk and precentor. He has also 6 d. for every baptism, 6 d. for each certificate, and 1 s. 7 d. each for marriages.—There are 2 schools established here by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. There are 3 or 4 other schools in distant parts of the parish, supported by the inhabitants.

Poor.—The number of persons commonly on the poor's roll is from 70 to 80.—The only funds are the Sunday collections, and the fines paid by delinquents; the former is very trifling, being scarcely 3 l. Sterling. The consequence is, that

that such of them as are able to walk about, go from door to door, not only within the bounds of the parish where they reside, but also in the neighbouring parishes. Two causes may be assigned for the collections being so small, namely, too great a disregard to public worship among those of a *superior station*, and the poverty of the common classes, together with their being too fond of drinking whisky.

Rent.—The real rent is about 1900 l. Sterling. The valued rent, in Scotch money, is 3940 l. 14 s. 5 d.

Agriculture and Produce.—There is a good deal of grain raised in, and exported from this parish.—There are three kinds of oats, white, black, and grey, besides beans, potatoes, and pease.—Sowing of grass and turnips is only in its infancy. This is no doubt partly owing to the shortness of the season, and partly to the want of inclosures. The seed time commences commonly about the end of March, or beginning of April, and the harvest about the beginning of September. The crops on some of the strath grounds, at a distance from the sea, are very apt to be hurt by frosts, blasting, or mildew, particularly on the Highland estate of Braemore. The inhabitants in these parts suffered very much in 1782 and 1784. The common mode of farming among the tenantry is to sow bar and oats alternately, excepting what ground they lay down with potatoes. If the land in this parish had the same justice done to it, which other parts have, by being rested, and raising green crops, there is no doubt that it would yield as luxuriant crops as most parts of Scotland. But the cattle being small, little is done by the plough. They go four a-breast, and the driver goes backward, with his face to the ploughman and the cattle.

Cattle, &c.—In the Highland part of the parish the cattle are small and hardy; there is much room for the improvement of them. The sheep and horses are also of a small kind, excepting Sir JOHN SINCLAIR's flock at Langwall.

Number of black cattle in the parish	-	-	4055
——— Sheep, exclusive of Sir JOHN SINCLAIR's flock	-	-	2555
——— Sir JOHN SINCLAIR's flock of Cheviot sheep	-	-	2200
——— Horses	-	-	1492
——— Ploughs	-	-	343
——— Carts	-	-	45

Prices of Labour and Provisions.—These two articles are greatly increased of late years. A day-labourer gets from 8 d. to 1 s. a day; women 4 d. and 5 d. Men servants from 3 l. to 4 l. besides 6 bolls of meal, or their maintenance in the house; women servants, besides maintenance, receive from 30 s. to 40 s. a year.—Pork and mutton sell commonly at 3 d. the pound, and even beef in some seasons of the year. There is no market in the parish, nor any one nearer than 20 or 30 miles. The gentlemen, for the most part, must therefore kill for their own use.

Services.—It were greatly to be wished that services were entirely abolished, as they are much against industry and improvement. However, according to the present mode of farming, some sort of services may be absolutely necessary. Although unlimited services are wearing out by degrees, yet they are still continued in sundry respects, which is both slavish and detrimental to the tenants. They have a tendency to hurt their morals, as well as to hinder industry and improvement.

Antiquities.

Antiquities.—There are several old castles along this coast, at Berrindale*, Dunbeath, (still inhabited), Knackinnon, Latberon,

* According to tradition, WILLIAM SUTHERLAND was the last who possessed the castle of Berrindale. He was called WILLIAM MORE MACKHIN, i. e. Big WILLIAM, the son of HECTOR, implying that he was of a gigantic size. He went to Orkney with one of the Earls of CAITHNESS, and was killed in a skirmish there. Before he set out on this expedition, it is said he was prepossessed with the opinion, that he never would return to his native country. He lay down on the ground above Berrindale inn, contiguous to the burial place, and caused the length of his body to be cut out in the form of a grave, which to this day retains the name of the long grave, and measures about 9 feet 5 inches.

The following Memoir respecting the gigantic WILLIAM, grandson to HECTOR MORE of LANGWELL, has been communicated by another hand.

About the end of the 15th century, HECTOR SUTHERLAND, commonly called HECTOR MORE, or *Meikle Hector*, was proprietor of the estate of LANGWELL. He was descended of the family of DUFFUS, and resided in a castle on the rock at the water mouth of Berrydale, the ruins of which are still visible. He built a house at Langwell, for his eldest son William, who married a beautiful woman, and resided there.—Some little time afterwards, William's wife was in child bed of her first child, and Robert Gun, tacksmen of Braemore, came over the hills to Langwell, accompanied by some of his clan, on a hunting party. Robert Gun proposed to his friends, that they would pay a visit to Hector More's son, and his young wife, which they accordingly did. Robert Gun, upon seeing the woman in bed, fancied her. Upon their way home, Gun declared to his companions, that he would have William Sutherland's wife to himself, and that the only means by which he could accomplish his design, was to take away her husband's life. His friends, whose consciences were not more strait laced than his own, having approved of his intention, they accompanied him the next day over the hills, and lay in ambush in the woods near William Sutherland's house, until they observed him come out to his garden,

thron, Forst, Swinze, and Clyb. These were places of strength in the days of rapine and violence. Most of these castles

garden, when Robert Gun shot him with an arrow from his bow.—They went immediately into his house, took his wife out of bed, and carried her and her infant child in a large basket they had prepared for that purpose, to Braemore, where Gun resided. How soon the mother recovered, she was reconciled to Robert Gun, notwithstanding of his murdering her husband. She begged of him to call her infant son William, after his deceased father, though she knew, had her husband been alive, he would have named him Hector, after his own father Hector More. Robert Gun held the lands of Braemore of the Earl of Caithness in tack, but he would pay no rent to his Lordship. After being much in arrears to the Earl, his Lordship sent John Sinclair of Stircock, with a party of men under arms, to compel Gun to make payment; but Gun convened his clan, and they defeated John Sinclair with his party. Several were killed, and John Sinclair was wounded in the engagement. This shews that Robert Gun was both a *tyrant* and an *usurper*. Young William's mother lived the remainder of her life with Robert Gun, and had two sons by him.—After these sons had arrived at maturity, young William and they went one day a hunting; and William, being more successful than the other two, killed a roe, which he desired his two brothers to carry home. They objected to this drudgery, and said that he might carry home his own prey himself. But William, who by this time had heard of his father's tragical end, told them, with a menacing aspect, that, if they would not carry home the roe, he would revenge some of their father's actions upon them, which intimidated them greatly, (though they were ignorant of the cause of his threatening), as they knew he had more personal strength than them both, he being then about 9 feet high, and stout in proportion; they accordingly carried home the roe, and told their mother that William had threatened them in such a manner. She communicated this circumstance to their father Robert Gun, adding, that she suspected William had heard of his father's death. Robert Gun being afraid of young William's personal strength, wished to be in friendship with him, and proposed that he should marry his (Gun's) sister, who resided with them in the character of a house-keeper. William did not relish the match, and would not accept of her. Soon afterwards Robert Gun made a feast at his house, where he collected

castles stood on a high rock above the sea, and cut off from the land by a deep ditch with a draw-bridge. Part of the walls

led several of his friends, and by some means or other got young William so much intoxicated, that he was carried to bed, and Robert Gun put his sister to bed with him.—When William awakened next morning, he was surprised to find Gun's sister in bed with him.—She told him, he might recollect that the ceremonies of marriage past betwixt them the preceding evening, and that she was now his lawful spouse. He got up in a passion, and declared that he was imposed upon, and that he would hold no such bargain.

Robert Gun flattered him, and said, that as he was now married to his sister, he would make the match as agreeable to him as possible, by putting him in possession of the estate of Langwell; and, in order to accomplish his promise, he, with a few of his connections, concealed themselves near Hector More's castle on the said rock until early in the morning when the draw-bridge was let down, they forced their way into the castle, and carried Hector More (who was then an old feeble man) out of his castle, and left him in a cot house in the neighbourhood, where he remained for some little time, and afterwards went to Sutherland, and passed the remainder of his days with one of his relations, Sutherland of Rea-char.

Robert Gun then returned in triumph to Braemore, and conducted William Sutherland and his espoused wife to the said castle, and gave them also possession of the estate of Langwell.—William being very much dissatisfied with Robert Gun's conduct, and not liking the company of his sister as a spouse, went and complained of his grievances to the Earl of Caithness, who promised him redress as soon as he returned from the Orkneys, where he was going to quell a rebellion, along with the Baron of Roslin, and wished that he, (William) being a very stout man, would accompany him. William consented to do so; and returned to Berrydale to bid his friends farewell before he would go on so dangerous an expedition. Just as he was parting with them at the burial ground on the Breas, on the east side of the water of Berrydale, he told his friends that he suspected he never would return from Orkney; he then laid himself down on the heath near the said burial ground, and desired his companions to fix two stones in the ground, the one at his head, and the other at his feet, in order to shew to posterity his uncommon stature; which stones remain there still, and the exact

walls of the old castle at *Achaistal* still remains entire *, and human bones are occasionally found in the ruins.—There are also the remains of many pictish castles to be found interspersed throughout this parish, and likewise several artificial cairns, some of a square form, others circular. They are now covered with grass or heath. Some of them are so high within,

exact distance between them is 9 feet 5 inches. Tradition also mentions his height to have been above 9 feet. He went with Lord Caithness, &c. to the Orkneys, where he, as well as the Earl and his son, were killed. This happened in the year 1530. The cause of the said rebellion was this:—In the year 1530, King James V. granted the islands of Orkney to his natural brother James Earl of Murray, and his heirs-male. The inhabitants took umbrage that an over-lord should be interposed between them and the sovereign, and rose in arms under the command of Sir James Sinclair of Sandy. Lord Sinclair Baron of Roslin, and ——— Sinclair Earl of Caithness, were sent with a party of men to quell the rebels; but the Islanders defeated them, and the Earl with his son, and William More Sutherland, who accompanied them, were killed. The Caithness men who survived, carried back the Earl of Caithness's head, to be interred in his Lordship's burial place in Caithness.

* The old castle at *Achaistal* was built and possessed by John Beg, third son to the Earl of Sutherland. In those times parties of robbers or freebooters used to infest this county. A party of these came to John Beg's house, and insisted that he should pay a certain sum in name of tribute to them, otherwise they would plunder his house, and carry away his cattle. John Beg seemed very passive to them, and entertained them very sumptuously, until he got them all intoxicated, by strong ale mixed with the juice of *nightsshade*, when he ordered them to be conveyed to the upper apartments of his castle. He then removed his family and furniture, and put them on board a vessel at the water mouth of Berrydale; and having collected a great quantity of straw and brush-wood into the lower part of his house, he set fire to it, which soon destroyed the robbers, and consumed all the castle, excepting a part of the walls. John Beg returned, with his family, to Sutherland. Tradition gives no account of the time in which these transactions happened.

within, that a person of an ordinary size may almost stand erect. The walls are well built, and covered with flags.

Caves, &c.—A great many caves are to be met with on this coast, some of which run up so far under ground, that none have been able to get to the end of them. They are inhabited by vast numbers of seals, many of which are killed by the inhabitants in the month of November, in their subterraneous habitations. The employment, however, is dangerous; for should the wind blow hard from the sea, these adventurers are in danger of being lost.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—This parish has several advantages. The sea coast, as has been observed, abounds with great variety of fish. The prices of labour and provisions, although increased of late years, are still reasonable in comparison of most other parts of the kingdom. As an act of Parliament has lately been obtained to convert the statute labour into money, it is to be expected that good roads and bridges, of which there is much need, will be the happy consequence. The want of harbours is a very great disadvantage. There is not a proper one from Cromarty to Orkney. And the want of proper markets for the productions of the parish is another. The shortness of leases, and the want of inclosures, are also great impediments to industry and improvements in agriculture.—There are by far too many whisky houses in the parish, which is a great incitement to the lower classes of people, to hurt their health and morals, and to consume their time and substance. The want of justices of the peace is another great disadvantage. There is only one gentleman who acts in that capacity, in this very populous and extensive parish. The consequence of this is, that the police is very much neglected. If the case were other-

otherwise, many grievances would be redressed, and many disputes settled, without going before the sheriff-court.— There is an old practice, which still prevails in some places, and which is very detrimental to husbandry. It is commonly termed *rig and rennet*. A number of tenants have their houses perhaps close to one another. Instead of every one having his land in one place, it is scattered here and there, several tenants having different shares in one field, or a rig a piece alternately. Besides stopping the progress of improvement, wrangling and strife among neighbours, in sowing and reaping, are often the consequences. If some manufactures were established on this extensive and populous coast, they would be of great consequence to the inhabitants. If they drank more beer, and less whisky, it would contribute greatly to their happiness and comfort. These, and some other disadvantages, under which the inhabitants labour, will no doubt be remedied in due time *.

* As the boundaries between Caithness and Sutherland lie in this parish, it may not be improper to give the following account of them, as inserted in M'Farlane's Geographical Collections, (A. M. S. in the Advocates Library) vol. I. p. 198, where there is a description of the parish of Latheron.

"The hill of the Ord is that which divides Sutherland and Caithness. *The march is a small rivulet, called the Burn of the Ord*, which takes its rise from some springs near the top of the hill. The south side of the hill is very steep, sloping all along to the top of a rock, which is many fathoms high. "Cross the south side of this hill is the common passage to and from this country. The road hath not been so very dangerous as at first view it would appear to the traveller, for the whole face of the hill to the top of the rock has been covered with heath, so that though a person's foot might slip, he was not in great danger; but whether through moor burning, or some other accident, it hath happened some few years ago, that the heath was all burnt, and now it looks more frightful than formerly, but the road, by the pains of sir James Sinclair of Dunbeath, is made so broad that 3 horses can conveniently

"niently ride it abreast. *A little to the east of the Burn of the Ord, which is the march,* there is a pleasant green moat, called the Dungalas, as high as the top of the rock. Since the heath was burnt, passengers, who observe, may see the vestiges of a ditch, digged up from the said Dün, all along the top of the rock, until it come to a burn, near the top of the Ord, called Aultnuder, a small rivulet rising from the morasses about a mile above the top of the foresaid rock. The top of the Ord is large 9 miles of bad road to the south-west of the church."

This seems to put the matter beyond all doubt, in addition to which it may be observed, that the mountain of the Ord is expressly included in the charters of Langwell.

The people of Sutherland are ready to acknowledge that the burn of the Ord is the boundary, but some in the neighbourhood pretend, that they have acquired a servitude of common over the ground in the neighbourhood, though situated in the county of Caithness. But it seems impossible that charters, *restricted to lands in the county of Sutherland,* can be the means of acquiring even a right of common, over lands in another county, that of Caithness.

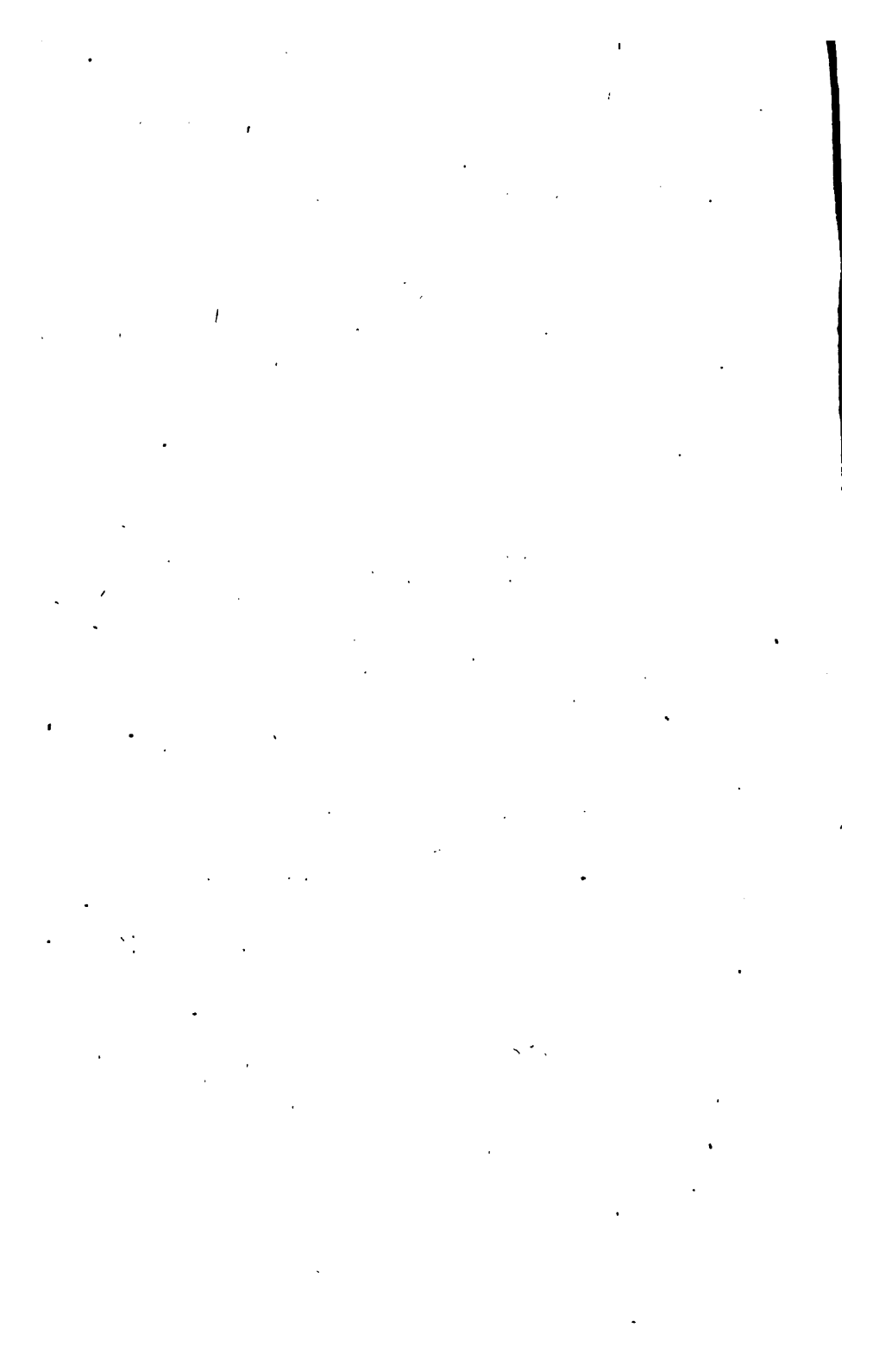
The Burn of the Ord is certainly the natural division between the two counties; and until the roads were made, the cattle and sheep of Sutherland could hardly get into Caithness at that place.

When the roads were made, it was agreed by both parties to begin at the burn of the Ord, as the point of division between the two counties.

The point was incidentally decided at the Circuit Court, when the bridge was ordered to be built over the Burn of the Ord, as being the boundary.

Within these few years, Mr Howison, who rents the kelp shores on the east coast of Sutherland, as is asserted on the authority of Mr Gordon, late of Ausdale, quarrelled his man for going farther than the Burn of the Ord, being beyond their right and privilege.

Many old men now living can sufficiently prove the boundary in question. William Campbell, late of Ausdale, an old man above 80, knew it well.



N U M B E R I V.

PARISH OF PENCAITLAND.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON.—SYNOD
OF LoTHIAN AND Tweeddale.

By the Rev. Mr HENRY SANGSTER, Minister of Humbie.

Form, Extent, River, and Surface.

IT is nearly of the form of an oblong square, extending about 4 miles from E. to W. and 3 from S. to N. The river Tyne, running in a direction from W. to E. divides it into 2 nearly equal parts, which rise from it by a gradual and easy ascent; and the south, after rising nearly to a level with the north part, slopes gently to the small rivulet of Kinchey, which divides this from the parish of Ormiston.

Soil, Cultivation, and Produce.—The soil in general is wet and clayey, and consequently not adapted for the turnip system. The old East Lothian mode of farming is to be met with here, and not the best mode even of it. Upon two farms, indeed, where the soil is fit for raising turnips, that system is adopted, and, in the execution of it, there appears a great degree of skill and attention. One of them, possessed by Mr ALEXANDER WIGHT, writer to the signet, has exhibited, for some years past, a state of cultivation not surpassed, if equalled, in any part of this county.

Farms and Rents.—Land lets from 12 s. to 36 s. per acre. The farms are of various sizes : They are not too large, nor are they of that diminutive-size, which, though it may give the appearance of population to a country, must prevent the markets from being supplied to that degree with grain, that is requisite for the success of manufactures, and will always produce a dispirited and unskilful tenantry. The valued rent is 6519 l. 8 s. 4 d. Scotch. The real rent may be somewhat above 3000 l. Sterling.

Minerals and Mineral Waters.—Free stone is found in many places, and there are two quarries of it for sale. Coal abounds in this district. It has hitherto been dug only in two places, in the higher grounds ; the one on the south and the other on the north side of the Tyne. From these pits coal is obtained for a great part of the south and east districts of this county, and a good deal is carried to Lauderdale. A pit has also been sunk lately near the Tyne, and an engine is erecting for clearing away the water, as the seam of the coal lies much deeper than the bed of the water. Lime-stone may probably be found in many places ; kilns, however, are erected only upon the estate of Pencaitland ; and some idea may be formed of their extent, from the circumstance of 45 cart-loads of coal, weighing each 15 cwt. being frequently used in the space of a week for burning the stone.—There are several springs of water of the mineral kind. They have never met with much attention from the public ; but are held in high estimation by the common people, for scorbutic disorders.

Climate and Diseases.—The air is more salubrious than might be expected in a situation so low, with the Tyne, a muddy slow running water, passing through the middle of it,
and

and many detached trees upon its banks, and in hedge-rows, in general through the parish. Local distempers are unknown. After a late or wet harvest, putrid fevers, indeed, are prevalent; and in these cases, the administrators of the poor's funds give assistance, where it is necessary, with their usual humanity furnishing medicines, and paying for the attendance of a surgeon.

Woods.—There are 155 acres of natural wood, consisting of oak and birch, and about 191 are planted with forest trees. Sir Andrew Lauder has kept a register of the increased size of a number of trees near his house, and intends to continue it. The following is an extract from this register:

	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Girth of an elm *, in 1788, 3 feet above the ground - - - -	5	2½
Ditto of ditto, in 1793, - - - -	5	11½
Medium annual increase - - - -	0	1¼
Girth of an oak *, in 1788, at the same height, 3 - - - -	6	
Ditto of ditto in 1793, - - - -	4	2½
Medium annual increase - - - -	0	1½

Around *Winton House* † there are several uncommonly fine trees. Some beautiful artificial banks have also been formed near the house, at the time it was built; but the whole now, by being totally neglected, and though the site of the house is

* Both these trees were 40 years old, and each of them increased 2½ inches in one of these years.

† This was a spacious building, erected in the year 1619 for Lady *Winton*, at the advice of a favourite of hers, an architect, when the Earl proposed to her the alternative of an addition to her jointure, or a house, and she chose the latter.

is pleasant, has a *sombre* appearance, and instantly fills the mind of the spectator with the idea of the folly of engaging deeply in faction, whereby an estate, (of which this is a part), more valuable and more commodious than any other of the same size in Scotland, was lost for ever to its owners. The young woods on the estate of Fountainhall, it has been observed, have of late suffered much from squirrels, which were introduced some years ago at Dalkeith, and have spread to this neighbourhood. They have attacked the Scotch firs in the proportion of about 1 in 20, and almost every larch and elm. Already many of each of them are killed. If the harm they do in other places be as great, and be progressive as they multiply, this intended improvement will be unfortunate.

Population.—From the number of births registered during the last 10 years, compared with a like period at any time since 1750, it would appear that the population has been increasing in that degree which might be expected in a district like this, where the whole inhabitants are not employed in agriculture. This may be the more readily admitted as sufficient evidence of the fact, that in the country parishes, many of the common people, since the date of the tax upon the registration of baptisms, do not register the births in their families; a circumstance to be regretted, as it may, in the course of events, be attended with bad consequences to their posterity. From various enumerations, however, taken at different periods, it is certain that the increase has been by no means uniform, as will appear from the following table.

POPULA-

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF PENCAITLAND.

Number of souls, as returned to Dr Webster in 1755	910
Ditto, as stated in an accurate list drawn up by Sir ANDREW LAUDER, (a residing heritor), in 1779	886
Decrease in 24 years	24
Ditto, by another accurate enumeration, in July 1793,	1033
Increase in 14 years *	147
Exact increase within these 38 years	123
Number of souls in the villages - - -	512
in the country - - -	521
PROFESSIONS, &c.	
Minister - - 1	Shoemakers - - 2
Heritors, resident - 3	Tailors - - 5
Ditto, non-resident - 4	Weavers - - 9
Farmers - - 9	Smiths - - 3
Masons - - 4	Dyer - - 1
Carpenters - - 4	Bleacher - - 1
Colliers, and their families - - 110	Teacher - - 1
	Inn-keeper † - - 1

Roads.—The roads are not in good repair. This is to be accounted for, from the nature of the soil, a deep wet clay, the

* The increase during that period has been occasioned chiefly by the houses, lately erected by JOHN HAMILTON, Esq; of Pencaitland, for his colliers, whose numbers, including their families, being 110, the increase, independent of that circumstance, has been, during the above period, 37.

† The other inhabitants are employed in the lime-works, and the different occupations of husbandry.

the distance from materials, the situation of the parish as a thoroughfare for the country, and especially from the passage upon them for coal and lime from a great part of East Lothian. The county, however, have at last turned their attention to these particulars, and have this year allocated a considerable sum for one, and erected a toll-bar upon another of the great roads; by means of which, it is expected they will be put into good repair, and prove, in that event, of much utility to the country. Notwithstanding the bad state in which the roads in general are, much has been done for them by Sir ANDREW LAUDER, on the south side of the Tyne. From his accurate reports, given in annually to the justices of the peace, it appears, that, besides the faithful application of the statute money, he has, from the year 1770 to this present date (February 1794), expended £500 l. and in proportion for other roads, besides those on his own estate; and there is reason to believe, that a similar expenditure may be expected from him for the future. Commendation is here by no means necessary, but a wish may perhaps be expressed, that proprietors in general would shew a like attention to that obvious fact, that good roads are the first and most beneficial improvement to a country.

Villages.—There are 4 villages, viz. *Easter* and *Wester Pentlands*, *Winton*, and *Nisbet*. In these all the trades people reside. In the village of Nisbet there are 2 weavers, who employ 8 looms for country work. They are the only weavers in the parish who are independent of the farmers, and consequently employ additional hands. This little fact, perhaps, deserves notice. In the formation of villages, proprietors have too generally favoured the introduction of trades people, from the sole consideration of raising their rent-roll, by letting a very few acres at a much higher rate than farmers

mers could pay for them. It would be better policy, as well as more gratifying to every liberal mind, to permit this necessary and important class of people, to sit at very easy rents, and free from every servitude to the farmers. In this way they would feel themselves comfortable, and be pleased with their situation. Farmers, and consequently landholders, would reap essential advantages from the increase of their numbers, and their thriving condition; and there would be no necessity for their retiring to the great towns, and increasing there, the mass of an unhealthy and debauched rabble. The above 4 villages contain only 512 souls; but it is better that this number should occupy 4 villages than one. There is a fallacy in the idea, that villages in the country are in a more thriving state the more populous they become; for in the same proportion as they contain above 200 souls, they will be found to be declining, often in industry, and always in morals. Proprietors, therefore, in the country, who have proper stations for villages, would consult utility as well as ornament, by the erection of two smaller, instead of one large village. And while they give every reasonable encouragement and security to villagers, they should be equally cautious relative to feus, as the proprietors of them, when necessarily removed, are too apt, rather than sell their property, to let it to any beggar or vagabond.

Provisions and Wages.—Provisions of all kinds have risen in their price one third completely, during the last 20 years. A hen costs 1 s. a chicken 6 d. eggs 4 d. per dozen, butter 9 d. per pound, cheese 6 d. The rise of wages has been proportional during the above period. A labourer receives daily 10 d. in winter, and 1 s. in summer. A young man fit for farm work, receives maintenance and 7 l. for the year. A farm servant, who lives in his own house, has an annual income

come of 14l. The wages of an able workman at the limekilns are 15 d. and, at piece work, he may earn 2s. 6d. The colliers are paid by the quantity of coal they throw out, and have a free house, together with coals for fuel. A collier, with a bearer, at the rate of working 4 or 5 days in the week, earns 65 l. annually. These great profits, as might be expected, are, in general, thrown away in a very injudicious manner, which tends not a little to produce a scarcity, and to raise the price of coals at the pit. It were, therefore, to be wished, now that they have got their liberty, that some measure could be taken, from which they might find it necessary to use it with more discretion. This general stricture applies by no means to the colliers on the estate of Fountainhall, some of whom are decent in their morals, and in affluent circumstances. Perhaps the smallness of their number preserves them, in some degree, from that dissipation which so generally characterises that class of people, and on account of which alone, can they be deemed, by the public, unworthy of their great earnings.

Bleachfields and Mills, &c.—There is one bleachfield, and there are 1 lint, 1 starch, 1 thread, 4 barley, and 4 corn mills. There are several threshing mills, and one in particular built lately on the estate of Fountainhall, which is wrought by water, and, it is said, performs some additional operations above any other hitherto erected. A considerable improvement is evidently obtained by these threshing mills, when they are driven by water; but when horses must be employed, it is not to be rated high. In this district there are many circumstances favourable to the introduction and success of manufactures; but here, as in the Lothians in general, this important national object meets with less attention than in other parts of Scotland, where difficulties, that do

do not exist here, are encountered, and happily overcome*.

Ecclesiastical State.—Mrs HAMILTON of Belhaven is patroness.—The value of the living is 90 l.—The glebe is small, but of excellent soil. The church is in good repair, and fitted up in a decent manner. No where are the people more regular in their attendance upon public worship; and, as the example of superiors is never without its effect, this is to be ascribed, in a great measure, to the attention which the residing heritors have paid to the public institutions of religion. Their conduct, in this respect, is richly entitled to much praise, both in a political and moral view. The higher classes, may act from a principle of *honour*; the lower never did, nor ever will. If these, therefore, are set free from the influence of a religious principle, no regulations which this age, enlightened as it is, may be pleased to substitute in its room, will command that *subordination*, without which there is an end of all order and happiness in society. Without the consolations to be derived from their prospects of future hap-

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piness,

* An attempt was made, indeed, a few years ago, to establish a woollen manufacture in this country, and many gentlemen and farmers became subscribers, and were to be in the direction of it;—two circumstances, either of which will always be fatal to any similar undertaking. The nature of manufacture will not admit of speculation, nor accord with associations or extensive beginnings. Success is only to be expected, in any branch of manufacture, from persons completely bred in that line, and invited, by favourable circumstances, to commence it: And the more numerous, though small, the beginnings, the better. An extensive project, when it fails, and it frequently will, for obvious reasons, impresses the public mind with the idea of the impossibility of carrying on any such manufacture to advantage; whereas, in fact, nothing might have been more easy, if it had been conducted solely by a skilful individual, at his own risk, and with a view to a moderate livelihood.

piness, they must feel themselves miserable under the pressures of their present lot, and will readily look with envy at the more fortunate condition of others.—There are a very few sectaries*, who have occasionally come into this from neighbouring districts.

School.—The average number of scholars is 50. The payments are, for reading, 1 s. 2 d. ; for writing, 1 s. 6 d. ; for arithmetic, 2 s. quarterly. The salary, which was 100 merks, was doubled some months ago by the heritors, upon a petition from the schoolmaster. This is the more singular, as it was in this county that the opposition originated, against the request of the schoolmasters of Scotland, for some small addition to their salaries. Such landholders as are averse from this measure, are still, it seems, to be informed of the good consequences, that have followed from the education which the common people have received at their parish schools ; otherwise they would not, probably, hesitate to raise these useful members of society to a situation as lucrative, at least, as that of a ploughman. It was no doubt a question in policy,
 Whe-

* It is somewhat remarkable, that during the incumbency of the late Mr GEORGE ANDERSON, a period of 36 years, not one individual of his parishioners left the established church. This fact, though not without a parallel, is to be accounted for, without doubt, from the prudence of his deportment, and the moderation of his principles, in conjunction with the example of the heritors. Indeed it will be generally found, that every clergyman, of a similar description, if aided by the attendance of the residing heritors upon the public ordinances of religion, will lead his hearers, in the space of a few years, into the same train of thinking with himself. This, it may be hinted, is the measure to be employed for checking the Secession, rather than having recourse to *schism overtures*, or inquiries concerning the *growth of schism*, which have agitated the public mind at different times, and were better calculated, than any thing which the Seceders themselves could have devised, for promoting the growth of schism.

Whether the common people should receive education ? Humanity revolts from the idea. Facts prove ignorance to be pernicious.

Poor.—The sum expended annually for their support is nearly, at an average, 70 l. In the year 1782, it was 112 l. None below 60 years of age are received upon the pension list, as an admission, it is thought, to an aliment that is certain, at an earlier period, might be unfriendly to their industry, and to the honest pride, which ought to be cherished in the lowest classes, of eating their own bread. When any, however, below that age, are in distress, they never fail to receive a proper supply ; and the sum given away in this manner, is not less than what is expended for the pension list.—No where, probably, do the poor receive a larger allowance, or meet with more cordial attention. Indeed the funds of the parish, though they have entirely arisen, excepting a donation of 100 l. from collections since the year 1704, are now so considerable as to supply these charitable demands, and preclude any chance of an assessment at a future period. The practice followed hitherto by the residing heritors, of not allowing the collections to be lessened, by their occasional *absence from public worship*, has tended greatly to increase these funds. Were this practice to take place in other parishes, and to be adopted also by *non-residing* heritors, (and no good reason can be assigned why it should not), it is likely that assessments, so much and so justly dreaded, would, in most cases, be avoided : For though the farmers know they have only a temporary interest in these funds, and the lowest class are aware that it belongs not to them, in any view of the matter, to maintain the poor, it is not to be doubted that both these classes would continue, as hitherto, from a religious

gious principle, to throw in their mite, if they saw a proportional contribution from the whole heritors.

Character and Mode of Living.—The people in general are satisfied with their condition, and are industrious. It is not remembered that an inhabitant of this parish has been punished by the civil magistrate for any crime. All of them can at least read the Bible; and the greatest part of the young men, whose parents could afford but little for their education, attend the schoolmaster in the winter evenings; who, for a small consideration, teaches them writing, and the common rules of arithmetic, by which means they acquire good habits, and become useful as farm and family servants.—The mode of living has become more expensive than formerly among the farmers.—The lowest class of people confine their taste and expence to their dress; and in this respect they are not behind others in the neighbouring districts. In consequence of this rage for finery, though much more harmless, in every view, than tea and dram drinking, (which pervade almost every town and great village), the common people, in the country through Scotland, will be found at present to be living almost as poorly as they did 50 years ago, when their income was one half less; for it is by no means to be placed to the account, (as some *seditious spirits* have of late shamelessly attempted to persuade us), of the burden of government taxes, which, it is well known to every person, duly informed about the matter, amount not to more annually than 2 s. 8 d. on the necessary articles of consumption, in the family of a farm servant, consisting of 6 persons.

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF LECROPT.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNBLANE.—SYNOD AND COUNTIES
OF PERTH AND STIRLING.)

*Drawn up by the Rev. Doctor JAMES ROBERTSON, Minister
of Callander, from Materials furnished by the Rev. Mr
JOHN KINROSS, Minister of Lecropt.*

Etymology of the Name.

LECROPT is derived from two Gaelic words, which signify one *half firm* or *dry* land, alluding to the natural division of the parish into high and low, dry and wet soil. One half is upland or elevated ground, the other is a dead flat of clay land, which must have been one continued morass, when the sea retired from the extensive valley, in which the Forth now winds its way to the ocean.

Situation, Form, Rivers, Extent, Surface, &c.—About two thirds of this parish are situated within the county of Perth, and one third in the county of Stirling. Its latitude is 56°. 11'. N. and its longitude 47'. W. of Edinburgh.—Its form is not far removed from an equilateral triangle.—The river *Teath* bounds it on the S. W. where it meets the *Forth* and the *Allan* on the E. The southern point is where the Allan falls into the united streams of the other two. From E. to
W.

W. it extends about 3 miles, and nearly about as much from N. to S. It contains about 2000 acres of ground, one half of which is a rich clay, the other half up-land, or what is generally called dry-field. The clay soil on the south is divided from the up-land by a beautiful bank, which crosses the parish, almost parallel to the north side, and nearly at one third of the distance between it and the southern extremity. —In all the clay land there is not a single stone or pebble; it is therefore inclosed and subdivided with hedge and ditch, or with open drains. The up-land, which is separated from the carse by the bank, and rises backward with a gentle ascent, is also inclosed, either with stone walls, or hedge and ditch.

Prospect.—From the bank up Lecropt, there is one of the finest prospects in this part of the island, which has been always admired by every person of taste. The Forth, the Teath, and the Allan unite their streams, and form the largest river in North Britain, in the champaign country, on the southern borders of the parish. Their waving banks being clad with the richest crops, the snug steadings of farms, the hedges neatly trimmed, the lofty trees, through which the smoke ascends from the dwellings, and the busy hand of man, engaged in the various operations of agriculture, beautify and enrich the scene.—On the opposite side of this fertile valley, the Castle of Stirling rears its head in rude magnificence, on the summit of a rock, and leads the mind to review the history of years that are past, when it was the residence of the antient kings of Scotland. The huge rock of Craigforth on the one side of the Castle, and the Abbey Craig on the other, form, with the Castle itself, three vast and detached piles, about the distance of a mile from each other; and, like the pyramids
of

of Egypt, look down on an extensive tract of flat country, where no other eminence intervenes*. The tower of the abbey of Cambuskenneth, in one of the finks of the Forth, where the ashes of the weak and unfortunate JAMES III. rest in peace from the tumult of civil discord, and the conflict of contending factions;—the stately bridge of Stirling, through which the Forth holds his majestic course to the ocean; his long circuitous links, through innumerable farms and thriving villages, and the sloops sailing along these links in all directions, amidst trees and houses, feast the eye with the pleasant prospect, and delight the mind with the grateful idea of industry and of wealth.—The distant hills of *Dundaff*, on the south-west, (still the property of the descendants of that gallant hero who broke the Roman barrier), the hills of *Falkirk* on the south, famous for the bloody rencounter between *Liberty and Despotism*; the green *Ochils* on the east, piled on one another; *Ben-vor-lich* † on the north; *Benledi* § and *Benlomond* § on the west, which raise their venerable heads to the clouds,

* These masses, and all other detached rocks, and many of our mountain rocks, in this part of the world, present a rugged front uniformly to the west, and have a tail of earth in the opposite direction. The western coast of Britain, and most other islands, present a bold shore of high rocks, while the land on the east slopes generally by an inclined plane, and dips gradually into the sea. The British rivers, for the most part, flow eastward. This is the case in many other countries, especially in America. Whether this phenomenon be owing to the current of the general deluge, or to the direction in which the earth revolves round its axis, or to the eastern inclination of the country, is perhaps uncertain; but there appears to be no doubt, that it is owing to some general cause; and there is as little doubt, that a large stone, or a rock, in a river which is not very rapid, gathers a tail on that side to which the current flows.

† The mountain of great flags.

§§ For the etymology of these names, see the account of *CALLANDER*, Vol. XI. No. L.

clouds, all diversify the landscape, add grandeur to the prospect, and prepare the soul for contemplation.

Soil, Cultivation, Minerals, &c.—The soil in the carse has been rendered more productive, by draining the swamps, by laying a greater quantity of lime annually on the land than used formerly to be done, and by streighting the ridges in several places. The soil in the higher grounds is in general loam upon a till bottom, and in many places a stiff till, without any mixture of loam, especially where the land is spouty. A great part of the upland, so lately as 20 years ago, was covered with furze and broom, which have been grubbed out by the farmers, since the knowledge of improvement, and the desire of industry have been introduced into this country; and their labour has been amply rewarded by abundant crops. The land, where furze used to grow, is now a strong generous soil; and its strength may in every case be estimated by the size and luxuriance of the whins, in its natural state. The soil which carries broom, in its uncultivated state, is not so strong as the former; but it is a trusty soil, and will make good returns of the ordinary crops, when tenderly dealt with, and allowed occasionally to rest in grass. Where whins and broom are mixed, the soil is strong or light, in the degree in which either of these prevails; and to encourage the husbandman still farther, such land seldom requires draining, where these plants are found. Blocks of granite have been blown in different places off the higher grounds, and removed at considerable expence; and land which was lately in a state of nature, lets now at a guinea an acre in pasture. Where the soil was spouty, at the skirts of the hills, covered drains have been made; but in the clay land the drains are all open.

Climate,

Climate, Diseases, and Longevity.—In the carse, inter-mittent fevers were very frequent some time ago, occasioned, principally, by the dampness of the country; but since the ground has been drained, and the inhabitants are more comfortably lodged and fed, all distempers, arising from a relaxed habit, are neither so common nor severe.—There is nothing extraordinary in the stature or longevity of the people. About the beginning of 1794, there died in the carse a person aged 93. Several persons, now alive, enjoy good health at the age of 80. The people in general are healthy and hardy, inured, from their infancy, to the laborious exercises of agriculture, which, by their improved stile of living, they are not only enabled to undergo with success, but with comfort and ease.

Produce, &c.—The produce is wheat, barley, oats, pease, beans, clover, and rye-grass; and in up-lands less wheat and beans, but in their place more turnips, flax, and potatoes of various kinds.—The wheat is sown in the latter end of September, and during the whole month of October, usually after summer fallow. The farmers begin to sow pease and beans in February, and oats as early in March as the season will allow. The sowing of barley is generally finished by the 1st of May. Potatoes are planted about the middle of May, which is also the season for the barley seed time in the up-land. The turnips are sown in June. The wheat yields about 10 bolls an acre, having 8 or 10 chalders of lime laid on the preceding fallow. The harvest begins about the middle of August, and is finished in 6 weeks thereafter, when the season is favourable. The wheat sells generally at 21 s. and sometimes more, by the boll; the barley from 18 s. to 22 s.; meal commonly at 16 s. The barley is sometimes sown by itself, and sometimes mixed with Chester bear. The oats,

most frequently cultivated in this parish, are the old Scotch kind. The Cupar Grange species is also introduced. The beans have always a mixture of about one-third of pease.

Wages and Prices of Provisions.—Servants wages have risen considerably within these few years. A bred ploughman cannot be hired for a year under 9 l. or 10 l.; a maid-servant charges 3 l. and upwards. Common labourers get 1 s. a day and their victuals. Beef sells at between 4 d. and 5 d. per lib.; mutton commonly at 4 d.; a pair of good barn fowls at 2 s. 6 d.; eggs at 6 d. or 8 d. the dozen; butter at 10 d. the lib.; and cheese at 4 d.

Farm Houses.—The farm houses have lately undergone great improvements, owing to the general spirit of industry, and the desire of convenience, which has been spreading for some years through this part of the kingdom, in every department of rural economy*. The dwellings are well lighted, and consist of 3 or more apartments; and the farmers have generally a clock in every family, and other furniture in proportion, comfortable and convenient.—They have kilns for drying grain, with brick floors, and some with cast iron floors.

Cattle.—In the carse farms, few black cattle are kept, but they pay great attention to the rearing of horses. In the
more

* About 20 years ago, the houses were meanly constructed, without light, without air, and without accommodation, which must have been very injurious to the health of the inhabitants, and, together with the wetness of the soil, proved the concomitant causes of premature old age, and of many local distempers. The late ARCHIBALD STIRLING of Kier, and most of the other proprietors, at the end of the last leases, inclosed and subdivided the farms, built neat steadings of houses in central places, and covered them with tiles or blue slates.

more elevated parts of the parish, the farmers rear more cows, and pay considerable attention to the dairy, which to them is a great source of profit. Their soil is well adapted for pasture, whereas the clay soil is more productive in bearing crops of grain. There is no mountainous ground in the parish, and therefore there are no sheep farms; some large inclosures, which are let to graziers, are stocked with sheep: And from the richness of their grass, and their vicinity to the market, they make good returns.

Moss.—It is evident, from a variety of circumstances, that the flat land in this neighbourhood was formerly covered with a stratum of moss. This moss was composed of the deciduous parts of trees, which sprung up from the rich bed of clay that was exposed, when the sea retired from that extensive valley, in which the Forth flows from the head of Monteath to Borrowstounness. Marine shells are found in the body of this clay. The roots of large trees are found adhering to its surface, and their trunks and branches are mingled with the moss above; which is a sufficient proof that there was no moss when the trees were growing*.

Woods.

* By what cause those trees, which in this valley are mostly oak, were felled, is not, perhaps, so evident; but by whatever cause this took place, when the trees fell, the whole plain must have been an immense and wild morass, when the water from the higher grounds was interrupted in its progress, and rendered stagnant by leaves, and branches, and large logs of wood. The richness of the soil below would soon produce a rank growth of the long grasses, and other plants peculiar to marshy ground. When the surface was somewhat consolidated by the annual decay of these plants, it would become a vast quag-mire, acquiring a gradual consistency, enabling it to carry heath on the top. From being slow moss it would become firmer, especially at the sides, where there was least water, and where the moss was less deep, by reason of the higher ground dipping in-
to

Woods and Orchards.—There is a great variety of planted trees on the higher grounds, which thrive well, shelter the country,

to it by an inclined plane.—The rivers being scarcely able to force their way through this desert, on which no four-footed creature durst venture for a long tract of time, deposited their tribute of slime, and meliorating particles of fine earth, upon the banks which produced a strip of rich land along their course. These strips of fine arable land, on the brinks of the rivers, are still discernible in all this country, while moss, in many places, retains its antient possession, between them and the higher grounds farther back, by which it is surrounded. It is also probable, that these banks of earth, formed on the verge of the rivers, contributed to hold back the water in the morafs, and to increase its depth, or the altitude of the moss, as they grew higher, by a continual accession of more soil with every inundation.

This may be the manner in which all deep mosses are formed. The thin stratum of moss on dry ground, which is produced solely by the leaves, and other deciduous parts of heath, is entirely out of the question. All mosses, of any considerable depth, are found in beds of greater or less extent, according to the distance of the rising grounds, or other obstructions by which the morafs was inclosed, wherein they were formed. It is an absurdity to alledge, that peat earth grows, any more than other earth. No species of earth has vegetable life. It indeed produces plants which have vegetable life, and these plants, returning to their first principles, increase the mold. The plants which grow on dry ground, when not carried off, add to the staple of the soil, and form a mold, similar in its qualities to that on which they grew; and the plants, which are natural to land-locked morasses, (among which that plant, strictly called *moss*, is always to be found), the leaves, and branches, and bark of trees, where they happen to fall, uniformly produce a black mold, known by the name of *peat earth*.

In the middle of the carse of Lecropt, there remained, till of late, 60 acres of moss, originally formed in this manner. The people in the adjacent farms were in the practice of cutting peats from it, which rendered the moss very irregular. The low moss at the sides was from 4 to 6 feet deep, and the high moss in the middle from 7 to 10 feet. This moss was, about 8 years ago, taken in lease from Mr Stirling of Kier, by a farmer in the neighbouring parish. He was baffled at first in many attempts to carry off the moss; but by unwearied perseverance

country, and are highly ornamental and useful. In this parish there are 10 orchards, 5 larger and 5 less, which, in favourable seasons, yield a considerable quantity of apples, pears, and plumbs. There is also a large natural wood, mostly of oak, which is cut twice in 24 years, and affords a plentiful and occasional supply of timber for the various purposes of husbandry. The only timber trees in the Carse are saugh, which grow to a large size; and, when allowed to arrive at full maturity, the red is durable, and admits of a most beautiful polish.

Bees.—Several persons in this parish have propagated bees with great success. The numerous orchards, the extensive plantations of trees, which abound with the saccharine juice, the large fields of beans, whose grateful flavour embalms the very air in the Carse, and the up-lands adorned with variegated blossoms of clover and daisies, and furze and broom, afford a plentiful supply to these industrious insects; and the warmth of the Bank, so well sheltered from the N. and running from E. to W. through the whole extent of the parish, affords them that cover which suits the delicacy of their frame, and cherishes their unceasing industry.

Heritors,

rance he succeeded at last in carrying a small rivulet about half a mile below ground, in wooden pipes, which consist of 4 of wooden boards, 1 foot in breadth, joined at right angles, and hooped with iron. In the space of 4 or 5 years he cleared, by the aid of this stream, about 20 acres down to the clay. This land produces fine crops of oats, and, by being properly wrought, and turned up frequently to the enriching influence of the air, there is no doubt of its carrying any other species of crops, known in the clay land around it. But, to the unspeakable loss of his family, this ingenious and industrious man, whose name was MURDOCH, was lost about 2 years ago, within a few yards of his own house, in passing the Forth; and since his death, the improvements on the moss have gone on but slowly.

Heritors, Rents, &c.—The heritors are 5 in number, none of whom reside within the parish. More than one half of the parish belongs to JAMES STIRLING, Esq; of Kier, whose residence has a commanding prospect on the Bank of Lecropt, within a mile of the church. This family has been long and justly respected, by all ranks, for the qualities which adorn human nature in the higher spheres of life. They have embellished the place of Kier, by well dressed lawns and extensive plantations; they have given bread to the poor, in carrying on these improvements; and have, by their example and influence, diffused a stile of husbandry and cultivation through this country formerly unknown. The number of farms is 25; and their extent is from 40 to 100 acres each. There are 7 pendicles, consisting of from 3 to 14 acres. There are 20 cottages, occupied by labourers and married servants. The land in the Carse lets, on an average, at 20 s. the acre; and the average rent of the up-land is 12 s. The valued rent of the parish is 2200 l. Scotch. The real rent is not exactly ascertained.

Population.—The population of the parish has rather been on the decrease since the farms began to be enlarged. The population in 1755, as returned to Dr Webster, was 577
The number of souls at present (1794) is - - 420

	Decrease	157
The number of families is - - -		80

Employments.—The people are employed, for the most part, in the various operations of husbandry, as farmers, servants, and labourers. There are 2 weavers, 1 smith, and 1 millwright; but neither taylor, shoemaker, surgeon, nor lawyer, in the parish.

Fisheries.

Fisheries.—The cruives of Craigforth are placed on a ledge of rocks, which extend across the Forth, having one end in this parish, and the other in the parish of St. Ninian's. The tide flows up to this ledge; which circumstance renders it a proper station for a fishing of this kind. A great number of salmon is taken, when the cruives are kept in proper repair. Salmon are also taken on the Teath and on the Allan, besides trouts, pikes, and perches.

Village, Manufactures, Mills, &c.—There is only one village, called *the Bridge of Allan*, which consists of 28 families. None of the tenements are feued. They are all the property of Mr Stirling of Kier. The villagers are variously employed, ministering to the convenience of the country. There is, particularly, a brewery for malt liquor, where strong ale, small beer, and porter, are made.—This village is situated on the Allan, a river more remarkable, at this place, for its romantic scenery, of a deep glea covered with a variety of wood, and its tumultuous current, than for the quantity of its water. The Allan, within a short space, drives several mills, for meal, barley, and flour. There are, particularly, 3 mills for making a coarse paper, known by the name of *Callender paper*, which clothiers use in pressing cloth. The village has also the advantage of being situated in a plentiful country, near coals, and at the separation of the two great military roads, the one going by Callander, to the west of Scotland, and the other, by Crieff, to the north: So that no situation seems to be better adapted for erecting a village on a large scale.

Sources of Profit.—The farmers in the clay land, who have lime in abundance near at hand, and for a moderate price, make their returns mostly by their grain. In the upland, the farmers have not only the same command of lime, but
shell

shell marl, and make their returns partly by grain, and partly by the produce of the dairy, and by fattening cattle for the market. The women spin woollen yarn, which sells, when trade is good, at 2 s. the spindle, for making stockings, shalloons, and plaids.

Roads.—The great roads in this parish are but indifferent ; but a toll is soon to be erected on that leading northward, which will enable the gentlemen to pay more attention to the other great road, and to the bye-roads, which stand much in need of repair. The roads in the Carse are scarcely passable in winter. The statute labour is not commuted.

Ecclesiastical state.—The church and manse are beautifully situated on the face of the rising ground, above the Carse, and command a rich and extensive prospect, already taken notice of. The church, which is in good repair, is an old Gothic building *, consisting of a nave and choir, 72 feet in length; the nave being only 14 feet broad, and the choir but 11. The steps to the altar are still visible; and the sacred font is quite entire. The manse is commodious, and in good repair. The glebe consists of 7 acres of fertile land, properly inclosed. The stipend is 48 l. 19 s. 2½ d. in money, 4½ bolls of meal; and 23 bolls of barley. Mr STIRLING of Kier is patron.

Religious Persuasions.—The town of Stirling was the original seat of the secession from the established church; and, from

* It was formerly a chapel annexed to the bishopric of Dunkeld, although it be situated within the diocese of Dunblane, and only 2 miles from the bishop's seat. The curate was established at Lecropt, to be a check on the bishop of Dunblane; which practice it seems, from similar institutions, was not uncommon in these times.

from a variety of causes, the peculiar tenets of that persuasion took early a deep root in this neighbourhood. A great variety of opinions have sprung up since that period. We have Burghers, Antiburghers, Cameronians, Bereans, and persons who adhere to the presbytery of Relief. But it ought to be remarked to their credit, that persons entertaining all these different opinions live with those of the established church, and with one another, in friendship and brotherly love. The acrimony of speech, the sourness of temper, the shyness of intercourse, and the reluctance to perform good offices, which characterised religious parties some years ago, have now given place to Christian benevolence, and the sweet intercourse of social affection. The intolerant heat of party zeal has become more moderate; and the mild spirit, which the gospel breathes, polishes the ferocity of nature, and smooths the ruggedness of the human heart. Men have discovered, what they ought always to have known, that their opinions, with regard to speculative points, are often as different as their faces; and that the harmony of society, and the intercourse of life, ought not to be interrupted by the one more than by the other; that meekness and forbearance become Christians; that rudeness of manners is different from purity of morals; that asperity of temper is no mark of soundness in the faith; and that it is a precept of the highest authority, to “love one another.”

School and Poor.—The school is well taught. The fees are moderate; for Latin and arithmetic, 2 s.; for English, one merk Scotch, or 1 s. 1 $\frac{4}{12}$ d.; for writing, 1 s. 6 d. Book-keeping and mathematics are also taught. The salary 100 l. Scotch, with the perquisites arising from the offices of precentor and session clerk.—There are no begging poor; but a few poor householders are comfortably maintained, without

any regular assessment, by the interest of 100 l. a fund allotted for that purpose, together with the weekly collections.

Antiquities.—An artificial eminence, on the east side of this parish, seems to have been a post of the Romans, near their great road to the church at Ardoch. KIER, already so often mentioned, is one of a chain of rude forts, (which are all called *Kiers*), that run along the north face of the Strath, or Valley of Monteath. These forts are at present in ruins, and are discernible to strangers only by knolls of a green surface, covering a great heap of loose stones *; but well known to the inhabitants of the country, who carry away the stones for building inclosures and houses. One of these forts was situated at the place of Kier. There are also Kiers at *Achinsfalt* †, at *Borland* ‡, at *Balinackader* §, at *Tar* ||, and in many other places in that direction, all similar to one another, in respect of situation, construction, prospect, and materials; which is a strong presumption at least, if not a clear proof, that their use was the same **. There is, in the neighbourhood of the church

* They seem to have been constructed mostly with dry stones, dug from the quarries near them, because no other cement, except clay or mud, was known in this part of the world, at the time they were built. They were uniformly situated near a spring of water, or a running brook, and commanded an extensive prospect towards all points except the north, from which quarter, it is probable, no danger was apprehended.

† *The field of the good prospect*; commanding the country from the moor of Dumbarton to Queensferry.

‡ *The land of hills.* *Bor* and *tor* signify a hill; hence all the torreys are hilly.

§ *The fuller's town.*

|| *The groin.* All the *tars* are at the bottom of hills.

** It appears highly probable, that this chain of forts was built

church of *Lecropt*, a hill, where the baron used to hold his court, during the prevalence of the feudal system. The Gallow Hill is near the Court Hill *.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The advantages are, our vicinity to the market of Stirling, where the parishioners can purchase any commodities they stand in need of, and get a good price and ready money, for whatever they can spare for sale. They are near plenty of coal, which contributes to their domestic comfort; and abundance of cheap lime enables them to improve their ground.—Bad roads are a great disadvantage. Another inconvenience, no less severely felt, is the want of good water in the Carfe. There is but one small rivulet in the parish, which is employed in carrying away the moss. There are some springs immediately below the Bank,
at

built by the Caledonians, to watch the motions of the troops stationed on the Roman wall, betwixt Borrowstounness and Old Kilpatrick, begun by *AGRICOLA* after his irruption into the north in the year 79, and completed by *ANTONINUS PIUS*. The Caledonian line was about 3 or 4 hours march, in most places, from the Roman wall; and this chain of forts, whether it was constructed by *GALGACUS*, who was no less sagacious than brave, or by his successor, was planned with consummate judgment, not only for the reason already mentioned; but because this is the narrowest tract of Scotland that the Romans ever visited, and therefore the most easily defended, and also, because there are few fords in the river, which runs in the strath lying on the south; and, if Moss Flanders then existed, it must have been an impassable morass, and a good barrier, as far as it extended, on the Caledonian frontier.

* According to the summary proceedings of those times, sentence of death, execution, and interment, followed one another in such rapid succession, that graves, gallows hills, and *mòt*, or court hills, are found contiguous, not only here, but every where else. The court hills are called *mòts*, or *mòt hills*, from the Gaelic word *mòt*, or *mòd*, which, to this day, is the only word for a *court of judicature* in that language.

at the head of the clay land ; but in this, and all other large tracts of horizontal land, whatever be the nature of the soil, there can be no springs, for a very obvious reason.

Character, Drefs, &c.—The people are remarkable for their decency and sobriety. None have been banished, or have suffered the higher pains of law, in any other respect, for misconduct, in the memory of man. Remote from the temptations and lurking places of great towns, where the profligate expect to elude the eye of the world, and to escape the lash of the law, in a crowded population, every man considers himself as known to his neighbours, and that he has both his own reputation, and the credit of his ancestors, to support by his conduct. Habits of industry have become familiar to the people, whatever object they have in view. In literature they have not been deficient, when their genius led them to the pursuit of study, and the improvement of the mind. One minister, one preacher, and three students, now alive, drew their first breath in this parish.—A remarkable change has lately taken place in the article of drefs. The love of show is natural ; and imaginary wants are sometimes no less clamorous than those which are real. But, if the increase of their earnings do not furnish the labouring part of mankind with this increase of luxury, their savings, upon which they are to begin the world, must be less at present than when their wages were more moderate, and their clothing less expensive.

NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF PRESTON-PANS.

(COUNTY OF EAST LoTHIAN.—PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON.—SYNOD OF LoTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN TROTTER, Minister.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

ABOUT a quarter of a mile to the south of Preston-pans stands the village of PRESTON, which, though at present but small, was formerly of considerable extent. When salt pans were erected in its neighbourhood, they would naturally be distinguished by its name. The building of the town of Preston-pans is supposed to have taken place after that of the salt pans. In the last century, and at the beginning of the present, the town was commonly named *Salt-Preston*. Of the origin of the name of Preston; nothing satisfactory can be traced.—This parish is near 3 miles in length. Its greatest breadth is about one. Ravenhaugh Bourn, which is the boundary of the parish on the west, divides the county of East Lothian from that of Mid Lothian.

Erection, Soil, Climate, and Diseases.—There are two baronies, the East Barony and the West. The charter erecting the East Barony, was granted in favour of Sir JOHN HAMILTON of Preston, A. D. 1617. By it Preston and Preston-

pans

pans are erected into a burgh of barony, with the usual liberties and privileges. The West Barony is that of Preston-Grange. The writer of this account has not been able to learn in whose favour, or at what period, the charter erecting it was granted.—The soil is loam; part heavy, on a clay bottom; part light, on a sandy or gravelly bottom. The climate is mild. There are no local distempers. The most prevalent are fevers, chiefly those of the putrid and nervous kind. The gravel is said to have been very common about 40 or 50 years ago.

Agriculture.—The rotation of crops, most approved of at present, is a white and green crop alternately. Fallowing is little practised. The land is cleared of weeds, by sowing in drills, and horse-hoeing the interstices; and women are often employed to pick them out with the hand. The land designed for wheat is ploughed as soon as it is cleared of the preceding crop. If the land is heavy, the wheat is sown about the middle of October; if light, about the beginning of Nov. The land designed for oats, pease, and beans, is plowed in February. Oats are sown about the end of March and beginning of April. If the land is dry, pease and beans are sown in drills as early as possible in February; when broadcast, they are sown early in March. When pease and beans are to be sown in drills, sometimes the land gets two plowings, the first after harvest, the second at the time of sowing, the seed being thrown into every third furrow. The land designed for barley is three times plowed. The first plowing takes place immediately after harvest; the second in the spring, as soon as the land is dry, commonly at the end of March or beginning of April. If the land be sufficiently dry, March is reckoned preferable. After this second plowing it is harrowed. The third plowing takes place
in

in May, about the beginning of the month, if the land be heavy; about the middle, if it be light. Scotch barley is usually sown about the beginning of May in heavy lands; later in proportion as they are lighter; and in the lightest, not till the end of May. Potatoes are planted commonly after the second plowing of the barley land, though the best season is reckoned to be about the end of April or beginning of May. Turnips are sown the first or second week of June. When the land has not been summer fallowed, one boll of wheat or barley, one boll and half of pease at least, and rather more than 5 firlois of oats, are sown upon an acre; when summer fallowed, somewhat less than 3 firlois of wheat or barley; when grass seeds are sown, an acre takes about 16 or 18 lib. weight of clover, and one peck of rye-grass. Dung is the chief manure. The quantity requisite for an acre is about 26 two-horse cart-loads of good stable dung. The land inclining to clay requires somewhat more; lighter lands, rather less. On good lands dung serves for four crops in the ordinary rotation. The price of stable dung is from 2 s. to 3 s. 6 d. per cart load, of street dung 1 s. Horses alone are employed in husbandry work. Horse-hoeing was introduced about 24 years ago, and has been practised ever since. Small's plough with two horses is generally used. The harvest begins usually about the last week of August, and ends on the first or second week of October. In the year 1785, early oats were introduced here. They were sown on the 5th of April, and reaped on the 21st of July. In the year following they were sown on the 31st of March, and reaped on the 25th of July. The harvest for the other grain was in the same proportion later than in the former year. These oats, being ripe so much sooner than the other kinds of grain, suffered so greatly from the birds, that the sowing of them was discontinued.

Produce.—The produce of grain per acre, on ordinary land, as well as on the best ground, is reckoned to be nearly in the following proportions :

<i>Annual Medium Produce.</i>			<i>Ditto of the best Land.</i>		
	<i>Bolls per Acre.</i>			<i>Bolls per Acre.</i>	
Wheat	-	9	————	————	13 or 14
Barley	-	7	————	————	12 or 13
Oats	-	8	————	————	15
Beans	-	9	————	————	15
Pease	-	6	————	————	10
Pease and beans		8	————	————	
Potatoes	-	30 or 6 tons	————	————	50
Hay	-	230 stones	————	————	300 stones.

Rents and Inclosures.—The rent of land is from 1 l. 11 s. to 3 l. 10 s. per acre. Almost all the parish is inclosed. Walls built of stone and mortar form a great part of the inclosures. They are an immediate fence, take up less room than hedges, and afford no shelter to birds. The common height is 4½ feet above the surface. The price of building is 3 l. 5 s. per rood, materials furnished by the builder. Inclosures have considerably increased the rent of the lands. The state of property has been fluctuating. Within the present century, the whole lands in the parish, with the exception of 4 or 5 acres, have been sold once, and some of the estates much oftener.

Wages and Prices of Labour.—The usual wages of a man servant, living in the family, are 5 l. Sterling per annum; of a maid servant, 3 l. Sterling; of a man servant, out of the house, 6½ bolls of oat-meal, in money and other perquisites from 5 l. 16 s. to 6 l. 11 s. 6 d.; a free house of 10 s. or

12 s. value, and diet in harvest; of a day-labourer, employed during the whole season, 10 d. per day, when occasionally employed, 1 s.; of women employed in weeding grain, 5 d.; of a man in harvest, 10 d. and diet valued at 6 d.; of a woman in harvest, 7 d. and diet, valued as above; of a mason, 1 s. 8 d.; of a carpenter, from 1 s. 4 d. to 1 s. 10 d.; of a taylor, 6 d. and diet; plowing an acre of ground costs 10 s.; harrowing ditto, 2 s.; cutting ditto of grass, 2 s. and 2 s. 6 d.; cutting ditto of grain, 6 s.; reapers, however, are seldom hired to work by the piece.

Prices of Grain and Provisions.—The price of grain is, in a great measure, regulated by the highest fiars of East Lothian. Beef sells from 3 d. to 4½ d. per lib.; mutton and veal, from 3 d. to 5 d.; pork, from 3 d. to 4 d.; good lamb, from 1 s. to 3 s. per quarter; fowls, 1 s. sometimes more; pigeons, from 2 s. to 3 s. per dozen; eggs, from 4 d. to 8 d. per dozen; butter, at the beginning of the season, 1 s.; it is seldom under 9 d. per lib. 20 ounce Dutch.

Manufactures.—There are at present 10 *Salt Pans* in the parish, but only 6 are wrought. When the weather is dry, and the coal good, a pan may be drawn 5 times in a week. Each draught requires 3 fillings of water, and yields, in summer, about 18 bushels †, in winter about 16. The difference is owing to the sea water being stronger in summer than in winter: For the same reason, in winter it requires 26 or 28 hours to a draught; in summer only 20 or 22. The process is sometimes retarded by the badness of the coal. When the sea water is good, a Scotch gallon of it will yield of salt nearly one lib. Avoirdupois. The draught consumes

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* A bushel of salt contains 8 gallons, and weighs 56 lib. Avoirdupois.

from 18 to 26 bolls of small coal or culm. The price of the coal is about 8 d. per boll, when laid down at the pan. Two men are employed in working a pan ; their joint wages from 17 s. to 20 s. per week. From the time the salt is drawn till it is fold, the waste by lying in the girnel is computed at 1 bushel in 10. The better the salt is made, the waste is the less. When it is conveyed by land, a high wind occasions a greater waste than a moderate rain. Three bushels in 40 were formerly allowed for waste, when it was carried coast-ways. A late act of Parliament reduces the allowance to 1 in 40. The original coat of a salt pan amounts to about 300 l. Sterling ; and once in 3 years it costs about 40 l. for repairs. The price of salt at present, duty included, is 3 s. per bushel. The average made in this parish, during the 5 last years, is 10,750 bushels 4 gallons per year.

A manufacture of *stone ware* is carried on a little to the west of the church. It commenced about 40 years ago, and belongs to Messrs. Cadell. White stone ware, and cream coloured ware, (of late the last chiefly) are manufactured. About 40 men, and upwards of 30 boys, are employed. The wages of the men are from 6 s. to 15 s. per week. Some of them, when working by the piece, earn more than 15 s. The wages of the boys are from 1 s. to 2 s. per week. The boys are taken at 8 years of age, and continue till they are 14 or 15, when they are either bound as apprentices, or go to other occupations. About 24 tons of coals are consumed per week ; the price is 5 s. 6 d. per ton, when laid down at the work. The clay used in the manufacture is brought from Devonshire, the flint from Gravesend ; white and red lead from London, Hull, and Newcastle. The price of the clay is 10 s. per ton, freight 14 s. per ditto ; the price of the flint is 18 s. and 20 s. per ton, freight 8 s. per ditto. Fire clay is found in great plenty in the neighbourhood. This manu-
 facture

facture circulates upwards of 25 l. per week. At Morison's Haven there is another manufacture of the same kind, with the addition of *brown ware* *. About half the number of men and boys are employed as at the former. Clay for the brown ware is found hard by the work. A third manufacture of the above articles was carried on at the Cuttle, but has been discontinued for a year or two; it is, however, about to be resumed. The sales, for articles of earthen ware, are computed at upwards of 5000 l. *per annum*. Besides the Scotch market, the ware is exported to most of the sea ports in Europe, to the West Indies, and to North America.—There is a *brick and tile work* adjoining to the old churchyard. Six men are employed. The wages of each, at a medium, are 1 s. per day. This season 13 kilns were fired with tiles, each kiln containing 10,000. Of bricks 107,000 were made. Each kiln with tiles consumed 21 cart-loads of coals, at 3 s. 6 d. per cart-load of 12 cwt. One cart-load, partly great coal, partly culm, is required, at an average, for 3000 bricks. A little to the west of the above there is another tile-work by the sea-side, where 9 kilns were fired, each kiln containing 9000 tiles, and consuming 20 cart-loads of coals. Three men are employed at 7 s. each per week. Tiles, including a duty of 8 s. are sold at the rate of 2 l. 13 s. per thousand. Bricks, including a duty of 2 s. 6 d. at the rate of 17 s. 6 d. per thousand.

A manufacture of *oil of vitriol*, *aqua fortis*, and *spirit of salt*, is carried on here †. For many years it was confined almost solely

* It is near 100 years since the manufacture of brown ware commenced in this parish. Towards the end of the last century, a glass-house for bottles was erected at Morison's Haven. The manufacture was carried on for some years, but did not succeed.

† It commenced *anno Domini* 1750, under the direction of Messrs

solely to the oil of vitriol ; of late it has been extended to the other articles above mentioned, as well as to *white ashes* and *Glauber salts*. Upwards of 50 men are employed about the works. Some of them are occupied during the day, and some of them during the night ; because great part of the operations require constant attendance. They are bound under indentures for 21 years, during which time they are paid weekly 6s. for stated wages, with a proportional allowance for extra work, in which they are frequently employed. Brimstone and saltpetre are the raw materials used in the manufacture of oil of vitriol. The saltpetre is purchased chiefly at London at the East India Company's sales. The brimstone is imported from Leghorn. About 60 tons of coals are consumed per week. Each bottle of oil of vitriol contains, at a medium, 140 lb. English weight ; of aquafortis, about 100 lb. ; of spirit of salt about 100 lb. The prices of the articles vary according to the price of the materials. At present oil of vitriol is sold at $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. ; aquafortis at from $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 10 d. per lb. ; spirit of salt at 6 d. per lb. with 3 s. for each bottle and basket ; Glauber salts at 12 s. per cwt. ; white ashes at 1 l. 8 s. per cwt. None of the last mentioned article, however, is now made. The Company sell also Manganese in powder. This article is made use of in the new method of bleaching. Oil of vitriol is reckoned best, when it is of the colour of pure water. Besides the home sale to bleachers and printers, these different articles are exported to various places in Europe. The present firm of the Company is, *The Preston-pans Vitriol Company*.

Fisheries.

Messrs ROEBUCK and GARRET ; but has passed, since that time, into other hands.

Fisheries.—The chief fishery is that of *oysters*. There are at present 10 oyster boats belonging to the parish. Each boat requires 5 men; but the profits are divided into 6 shares, one share being applied for upholding the boat. There are not, however, above 23 regular fishermen; all the others work occasionally on land or sea, as they find most for their advantage. A boat seldom returns with more than 400 or 500, often with fewer*. The present price is 15 d. per hundred. A hundred, as sold by the fishers, contains 33 *warp*, equal to six score and twelve. The retail hundred contains only 30 warp. Four oysters make a warp. Three or four times in a season, a boat sails with a cargo of them,

to

* About 20 years ago, the scalps were so productive that 6000 oysters and upwards were frequently dragged by one boat in a day. The price at that time was 6 d. per hundred. Besides the consumption in the neighbourhood, they were exported to Newcastle, Hull, and London. A merchant at Leith, in the year 1773, contracted to ship oysters on commission for London. He purchased for 10 different companies, and for 10 years paid 2500 l. Sterling *per annum* for oysters. The value of the home consumption was estimated to be still greater. Forty boats were then employed, of which 16 belonged to Cockenzie in the parish of Tranent; 16 to Preston-pans, Cattle, and West Pans; and 8 to Fisherrow. The oysters for the London market were packed in barrels. Twelve vessels were employed in the trade, from the middle of January to the middle of May. Each vessel carried, at a medium, 320 barrels; each barrel was supposed to contain 1200 sizeable oysters. A pattern was given to every boat, with injunctions to barrel none of a smaller size; but these injunctions were far from being strictly observed. Thirty cargoes have been shipped in a season. The oysters were dropt in bays at the mouth of the Thames and Medway, and other grounds, to fatten until the fall, when they were dredged and sent to market. This trade was given up in the year 1786, owing to the scarcity and advanced prices of oysters, the price having risen from 4 s. 6 d. to 7 s. and 8 s. per barrel. During some of the last years in which it was carried on, part of the cargoes were made up of oysters from Newhaven. The scalps were greatly exhausted by this trade.

to the number of 30,000, sometimes 40,000, to Newcastle. It is an open boat *, manned with 6 men. It brings no cargo homewards ; being open there is nothing to defend goods from damage. The present price at Newcastle is 2 s. per hundred. Oysters are carried to Glasgow by land. Two carriers, with 4 one-horse carts, come from Glasgow to Edinburgh with goods, and return loaded with oysters, which they purchase at Preston-pans and Cockenzie. The medium is about 9000 in each cart. Oysters are found on a strong clay bottom, on rocks and stones, and sometimes, though but thinly, in what is called by the fishers *sea tatbe*. These last are of a very inferior quality. Those caught nearest to the town are usually the largest and fattest ; hence the large ones obtained the name of *Pandoors*, i. e. oysters caught at the *doors* of the *pans*. The sea-water, a little freshened, is reckoned the most nourishing to oysters. This may be one reason why those caught near to the town and shore are so large. Sand is prejudicial to them. The fishers dredge from 4 to 15 fathoms depth of water. When they drive the dredge, they begin the oyster song, which they sing till the dredge is hauled up. The large oysters are picked out and kept ; those that are too small for present use, are thrown back into the sea. An oyster is reckoned sizeable, when its shell is an inch and a half in diameter. Buckies, clams, sea-urchins, star-fish, and corse-fish, are found in the oyster beds. The two last mentioned, especially the corse-fish, prey on oysters, and likewise on muscles. The scalps reach from the shore about 6 miles into the Frith, and extend both to the east and west of the boundaries of this parish. In May the oysters cast their *spat* or spawn. They are sickly in June and July ;

* This voyage was once performed in 13 hours. The boat sailed from Port Seton harbour at 3 o'clock in the morning, and arrived at Newcastle at 4 in the afternoon of the same day.

July; but recover in August. For this reason, the proper season for dredging commences on the 1st of September, and ends on the last of April. The common observation is, that the oyster season lasts during all the months in which the letter R occurs. But the fishers have not confined themselves strictly to these months; and this is another cause of the scarcity*. That the scalps may recover, it would be proper to dredge very sparingly for a year or two, to take no oysters but such as are sizeable, and at no time to dredge in the months of May, June, July, and August. The young fry are said to acquire shells in 24 hours; but do not become saleable in less than 2 or 3 years. Oyster shells make an excellent lime, remarkable for its whiteness. They are used likewise as a medicine.—Besides oysters, many other kinds of fish† are caught in their season; cod, skate, flounders, whittings, mackerel, lobsters, and crabs.

Boats.—The oyster boats are of different dimensions. Some of the largest measure about 22 feet in keel, 26 aloft from

* Some of the aged inhabitants report, that, about 60 or 70 years ago, oysters were in little estimation. In a judicial declaration, emitted A. D. 1776, by a residenter here, then 67 years old, he deponed, that he remembered when there were not above 3 or 4 boats employed: That they seldom caught above 600 in a day; and that there was little or no demand, or sale for them, at that period.

† Haddocks formerly were plentiful, but of late years they have not appeared. Two years ago herrings were caught in great numbers near the town, in the month of August. In the parish records it is narrated, that in the same month, A. D. 1695, the herrings approached so near to the shore, that the inhabitants went out with sieves and riddles to catch them. It is impossible to specify the prices of the last mentioned kinds of fish, as they depend on the quantity caught, and, of consequence, vary every day. It is certain, however, that the prices are more than tripled within these 20 years.

from stem to stern, 7 in extreme breadth, and 2 feet 9 or 10 inches in depth. The prime cost of one of these, fully furnished, is 15 l. or 16 l. The boat employed in the Newcastle trade measures 33 feet in keel, 38 aloft from stem to stern, 12 feet 9 inches in breadth, and 4 feet 8 inches in depth.

Harbour.—The only harbour in the parish is MORISON'S HAVEN, so called from a family of the name of Morison, who were formerly proprietors of the estate of Prestongrange. About 80 or 90 years ago, it was called *Newhaven*, and often ACHESON'S HAVEN, from an ancient family, the progenitors of the present Lord Viscount GOSFORD in Ireland *. It is situated a little to the west of the town. It has about 10 feet of water at stream tides, but might be deepened so as to draw 12. It is reckoned one of the safest harbours in the Frith.

Trade †.—The exports at present are only fish, and the different articles of manufacture which have been already
men-

* GOSFORD, which was a principal seat of this antient family, lies 5 miles east of this, in the parish of Aberlady. Their Scotch title was *Glencairney*. Mr ALEXANDER AITCHISON of Edinburgh, now claims being the lineal representative of this family in Scotland.

† Before the Union, a considerable foreign trade was carried on here, especially in Dutch and French goods. Besides the home market, these goods, together with salt and tobacco, were carried to the north of England, and many of them were smuggled into that kingdom with great profit to the adventurers. From England they brought wool, and exported it to France. They exported likewise malt, salt, and coals. In consequence of the duties that were imposed after the Union, the trade, especially with England, was much less advantageous. It was, notwithstanding, still carried on to a considerable extent. In the year 1719, 41 cargoes were delivered at the port of Prestongrange,

mentioned. The imports are the ingredients used in the vitriol work and potteries; sometimes English barley for the use of the distilleries in the neighbourhood. More wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, and hay, are supposed to be consumed than are raised in the parish: Less pease and beans. Considerable quantities of cabbage plants are raised. The season of sowing them is Lammas. Besides the sale in the neighbourhood, 150,000 at a medium are sent annually to Glasgow, and about 70,000 to Falkirk and Carron. The severer the winter, the demand for them is the greater. The price is from 3 s. to 6 s. 8 d. per 1000. The principal market for garden productions is Edinburgh.

Custom-House.—A custom-house is established here, the jurisdiction of which extends from the *Figgat Bourn* on the west, to the mouth of the Tyne on the east. The port is Morison's Haven: The creeks, the Figgat Bourn; Musselburgh, Port-Seton, Aberlady, and North Berwick. There

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are

ton-pans, 19 of which were imported in ships belonging to the town. Of these cargoes 21 were wholly from Norway, 6 from Sweden, 1 from Dantzic, 2 from Dantzic and Norway, 2 from Bremen, 5 from Rotterdam, 2 from Havre de Grace and St. Martin, 1 from Oporto, and 1 from Maryland in North America. This last cargo consisted of 102 hogsheds of tobacco, 59 of which were delivered at Preston-pans, and the remainder was carried to Leith. Some years after this period, several of the vessels belonging to this port were lost at sea. This, together with the check it received at the Union, gave the trade a blow from which it never recovered. No person of enterprise or capacity, or possessed of a sufficient stock, made any persevering efforts to re-establish it: Purchasers not finding such an assortment of goods as formerly, had recourse to other ports; and about the year 1743, it entirely ceased. The harbour mostly used by the traders was Port-Seton, about a mile to the east, in the parish of Tranent. Before the Union, and for some years after it, the Dutch trade centered chiefly in Preston-pans and Queensferry.

are 31 salt-pans in the collection, viz. 11 at Cockenzie, 4 at Preston-pans, 2 at Cuttle, 4 at West Pans, 4 to the west of Fisherrow at Pinkie Pans, and 6 at Duddingston Pans.

Markets, Mills, &c.—There is a butcher market in the parish every Wednesday and Saturday, which is supplied by butchers from Tranent and Musselburgh, no person of that occupation residing in the parish. Though nine tenths of the lands are rented, there is not one family who depend for their livelihood solely on farming.—There are only 5 brewers in the parish *. There are two mills, one of which, at the west end of Cuttle, is turned by the water of a coal-level; the other, at Morison's Haven, is turned by the sea water, collected at the flow of the tide. They are employed in grinding flint for the use of the potteries.

Stage and Tolls.—A stage coach goes to Edinburgh and returns every day in the week, except Sunday. It departs at 9 o'clock in the morning, and arrives at Edinburgh about 11. It leaves Edinburgh at 4 in the afternoon, and arrives at Preston-pans about 6. It carries 6 inside passengers; the fare is 1s. 8d. for each. There are 2 toll-bars, Ravenshaugh toll on the post road, and Wallyford toll, on a cross road leading to Dalkeith. These tolls, of which the last mentioned draws a mere trifle, were let at the following yearly rents:

<i>Anno</i> 1758	at L. 197	<i>Anno</i> 1791	at L. 401
— 1790	390	— 1792	417

Heritors, &c.—There are 20 heritors, the principal of whom are the Countess of Hyndford, proprietress of the lands of Prestongrange and Dolphinston; Mr Finlay of Drummore, Mr Syme of Northfield, Mrs Ramsay of Burnrigg,

* The brewery of malt liquors was formerly carried on to a much greater extent than it is now. In the year 1754 there were 16 brewers.

rigg, the trustees of Schaw's hospital, and the trustees of Watson's hospital. The principal seats are Prestongrange, Drummore, and Northfield. Preston House * is occupied by the boys on Schaw's institution.

Church and School.—The great body of the people adhere to the established church. About a twentieth part of the whole number are seceders, of whom nearly two-thirds are of the Burgher persuasion. There are 10 or 12 Episcopalians. The present church was built A. D. 1774. It is neatly fitted up, and may accommodate about 900 hearers. The patronage belongs to the Countess of Hyndford. The manse was built A. D. 1782: The schoolmaster's house, which contains the school room in part of the ground floor, A. D. 1790. The fees at the parish school are, for English, 2s. per quarter; for English and writing, 2s. 6d.; for writing and arithmetic, 2s. 6d.; for English, writing, and arithmetic, 4s.; for Latin, 4s. The number of scholars is from 60 to 70. About the same number may attend three private teachers.

Poor.—The number of poor on the stated pension list amounts to 42. Their pensions are settled by the kirk-session, and are increased or diminished as their circumstances require. No pensioner with a family receives at present more than 2s. per week, and no individual more than 1s. 4d. The funds arise from the collections at the church door; the interest of 250l. Sterling of sunk money †; the rent of

* PRESTON TOWER, formerly the residence of the HAMILTONS of Preston, said to have been built about the year 1500, is ruinous. At Dolphinton there are also the ruins of a family seat.

† The sum of 250l. above mentioned, was left by different persons to the poor. One hundred of it was bequeathed by the late ANDREW MACDOWAL of BANKTON, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, who bequeathed a like sum to the poor of

of a house and garden at Preston *; and perquisites for mort-cloths. From these funds, a sum of nearly 30*l. per annum* is appropriated for the stated poor. The residue is left in the hands of the kirk-session, to be distributed, as an interim supply, to those who are suddenly reduced to want by misfortune or disease. Out of it, likewise, are paid small salaries to the session-clerk, precentor, and beadle; school wages for the education of a few poor scholars; sums occasionally for clothes to the poor; and the funeral expences of the pensioned poor. In addition to the 30*l.* above mentioned, the heritors and feuers are assessed to the amount of what more is necessary for the maintenance of the stated poor. The heritors are assessed in proportion to their valued rents; the feuers in proportion to the value of their subjects. The proportion paid by the latter is to that paid by the former, as 1 to 6; corresponding to the supposed value of their different properties. Houses belonging to heritors, for which they draw rent, (their family seats excepted,) are assessed after the same

of every parish in which he had property. In the bequest, a right of presenting the poor person, or persons, to whom the interest of it is to be given, is reserved to the heir of entail.

* A. D. 1753, the heritors, and some of the feuers, applied to Parliament, and obtained an act for imposing a duty of two pennies Scotch on each Scotch pint of ale brewed, brought in, and vended in the parish; the money arising from which was to be applied for repayment of a sum to be advanced for purchasing a charity work house, for conveying soft water to the town of Preston-pans, and for repairing Morison's Haven. For the first mentioned purpose a house was purchased at Preston, with a small garden; but, after a trial of a few years, the scheme not answering, it was given up. Besides the utter aversion which many in actual want had against entering into the house, the expence was found to be greater than when the pensioners had a stated allowance given to them, and were permitted to spend it after their own way. Since that time, the rent of the house and garden have made a part of the poor's fund.

same manner as those of the feuers, and are included with them in the payment of the sixth part of the assessment. The assessing of these subjects by the real rents was considered as ineligible for many reasons. When a proprietor occupies his own house, it is difficult to ascertain what the rent ought to be. Tenants and landlords may not always be disposed to give the necessary information, especially when they have an interest in with-holding it. Even where the rent is ascertained, there must be a difference in assessing old and new houses, though the rents be equal, on account of the necessary reparations which the former require. This it is not easy to appreciate. Ten per cent. may be an equitable deduction for one house, but not for another. For these reasons, the other mode of assessing, by the value of the subjects, was adopted about 8 years ago, and the proportion, with concurrence of the heritors, settled as it now stands. The value of the subject, or subjects, belonging to each individual, is estimated by persons of skill and of character; and the assessment is levied in proportion. The medium of the whole disbursements to the account of the poor, for the 5 years preceding 1793, is about 137 l. Sterling *per annum*. The sum paid as the weekly maintenance of the stated poor, for the present year (1792), is 2 l. 1 s. 6 d.; which is less than it has been for many years past *.

Friendly Societies.—Some private Friendly Societies are instituted here. By contributing a small sum of money weekly, when in health, a subscriber, when sick, receives a comfortable

* During the years 1782 and 1783, owing to the scarcity which then distressed the country, the number of the poor, and the sum necessary for their support, was greatly increased. The rate for stated pensioners, in 1783, amounted to 3 l. 10 s. per week, besides what was given to the occasional poor. The number of poor continued to be greater than usual for several years afterwards.

portable allowance till he is again able to work: And, in the event of his death, or that of any of his family, a sum of money is given, to help in defraying the expence of the funeral. There is an abuse to which institutions of this sort are liable, which ought to be guarded against, viz. permitting subscribers to become members of more societies than one, which may furnish a temptation to the indolent and avaricious, to feign indispositions difficult to be detected, and, of consequence, occasion a misapplication of the fund.

Charitable Foundation.—JAMES SCHAW, proprietor of the estate of Preston, bequeathed the lands and barony of Preston, with the residue of some other funds, for maintaining and educating boys, whose parents are in poor circumstances. He died A. D. 1784. The house of Preston was, according to the terms of the deed, fitted up for the reception of the boys; and the establishment commenced in February 1789. There is a master, house-keeper, and two maid servants. At first 15 boys were admitted. The number was afterwards increased to 24. Two have died. They are taught English, writing, and arithmetic; and, as they grow up, some manual employment, viz. to knit stockings; to mend their clothes and shoes, &c. Four names have a preference, in the following order: *Schaw, Macneil, Cuningbam, and Stewart.* The age of admission is from 4 to 7. They may remain in the house till they are 14. They must be free from the King's evil, and from all contagious distempers. The trustees are empowered to bind them as apprentices, or otherwise to set them out to business, as they shall judge best.

Chapmen *.—On the 2d Thursday of July, the travelling chapmen

* This word is used, in the Scotch sense of it, for an itinerant seller of wares.

chapmen of the three Lothians meet annually at Preston-pans *, and elect some of their number, for the purpose of holding courts to enforce the observance of bye-laws, to which they are bound at their entrance into the society. They elect, on this occasion, a provost or preses, a depute, a clerk, a treasurer, 6 bailies, and several counsellors. There is one bailie for Preston-pans and Cockenzie; one for Haddington and North Berwick; one for Dunbar and Oldhamstocks; one for Musselburgh and Dalkeith; one for Queensferry and Borrowstounneis; and one for Linlithgow and Bathgate. After the election they march in a body, preceded by music, to the cross at Preston, there drink a few bottles of wine, and then return. In the towns where their booths are erected at fairs, the bailie for that town gets a pawn from each chapman, who is bound to attend a meeting of the whole number, at an appointed hour in the evening, or next morning. Here the behaviour of each during the fair is inquired into. If any of the bye-laws have been transgressed, a fine is exacted and paid. If the offence has been gross, they are expelled. The fines are deposited in the hands of the treasurer, and are applied

* The place of meeting, formerly, was in an open field adjoining to Preston, on the second Thursday of October, at which time a fair was held there, called *St. Jerome's Fair*. About the year 1732, this fair was transferred to Preston-pans, where it was held for about 20 years, and was then given up. No information has been obtained, that can be depended on, as to the time when this society was first instituted, nor how they came to hold their annual meeting at Preston. The members residing in East Lothian were always the most numerous, which might be a reason for holding the meeting in this county; and Preston, being situated at its western extremity, is the town nearest to the other two Lothians. In the year 1636, they acquired a right to the Cross there, which they still preserve. So much is Preston now decayed, that this cross stands in a field. The number of pack-horse chapmen is much fewer than it once was, and they are still on the decline. About 50 years ago, there were 15 in East Lothian, all of whom had a good trade.

applied to relieve the widows or families of those members of the society who need supply, and sometimes those who have been unsuccessful in business. They cannot proceed to an election unless some married members be present; but the preses is usually chosen from among the unmarried; it being supposed, that those of this description will more readily attend the fairs. When a new member is admitted, he pays some entry-money, which is added to the common stock: The son of a member pays less than a stranger. At present, the number in East Lothian who keep pack horses does not exceed 6. Persons living in the country are now more in the practice of purchasing articles of merchandise in towns, where the assortments are better, and to which the access is, by good roads, rendered more easy than it formerly was. The whole members of this society at present are about 24 in number.

Battle of Preston.—On the east of the inclosures of Preston was fought the battle of Preston, A. D. 1745, in which the army of the Rebels obtained the victory over the King's forces. The action began early in the morning of the 21st of September, O. S. The Highlanders, in their accounts, usually gave it the name of the *Battle of Gladsmuir*; though Gladsmuir is at least 3 miles distant from the scene of action. There was, it seems, a tradition among them, that a battle was to be fought on the *Moor of the Gledes*, which, in the issue, would insure to the *rightful Sovereign* the peaceable possession of his throne. They made the application that was most favourable to their views.

Eminent Men.—This parish has been the residence of several men of eminence, viz. the Honourable JAMES ENSKINE of Grange, brother of the EARL of MAR, and Lord Justice

Clerk

Clerk for the 3 last years of Queen Anne. He resigned his seat on the bench in the year 1734, that he might go into Parliament to oppose SIR ROBERT WALPOLE. He was proprietor of the lands now belonging to Schaw's Hospital and Watson's Hospital. HEW DALRYMPLE, LORD DRUMMORE, was a distinguished and popular Judge. WILLIAM GRANT of Prestongrange was Lord Advocate in 1746, and carried on the prosecutions, against the unfortunate persons who had been engaged in the rebellion, with such fidelity to the Crown, and, at the same time, with so much feeling and lenity for the accused, as gained him universal approbation. He was afterwards appointed one of the Senators of the College of Justice, and one of the Lords Commissioners of Justiciary. Some gentlemen, of the first merit in their several lines of life, were educated at the school here, viz. the late Colonel CAMPBELL DALRYMPLE, youngest son of Lord Drummore, who was Governour of Guadaloupe after it was taken in the war of 1756; SIR ROBERT MURRAY KEITH, and his brother SIR BASIL KEITH; the last of whom, after an honourable life in the navy, died Governour of Jamaica. The first still survives, an honour to the corps diplomatique, as a member of which he has done eminent services to his King and country.

Minerals.—There is plenty of coal, particularly in the estate of Preston-grange; but none is wrought at present, nor has been for more than 30 years. The parish is supplied with this article from the pits in the parishes of Tranent and Inveresk. Whin-stone rock is also found here. There do not appear to be any free stone quarries worth the working.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—Among the advantages are to be reckoned the fishery, and vicinity of coal. Among the
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Of the last 10 years in the table, the greatest number of births in one year, viz. 1789, was	82
The least number in one year, viz. 1790	57
The medium of - - - - -	130 is 69½
Annual average of the last 10 years in the table	68½ is 68.75
Twins born within the last 10 years *	20

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF PRESTON-PANS, FOR 1793.

	<i>Houses.</i>	<i>Fam.</i>	<i>Mal.</i>	<i>Fem.</i>	<i>Tot.</i>
There are, in the town of					
Preston-pans, - - -	198	384	687	805	1492
In Cuttle - - -	52	89	126	165	291
In Preston, including Northfield and Schaw's Hospital	16	23	65	49	114
In Dolphinston and Dolphinston Mains - - -	13	13	32	28	60
In Prestongrange, Drummore, and the rest of the parish	11	11	26	45	71
Total	290	520	936	1092	2028
Persons born out of the parish	-	-	301	453	754
in England - - -	-	-	9	5	14
in Ireland - - -	-	-	1	0	1

AGES.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Under 10 years of age - - -	304	289
From 10 to 20 - - -	188	160
Carried forward	492	449

Males.

* Ten females were born at 5 births, 8 males at 4, and one male and one female at one.

			Males.	Females.
	Brought over		492	449
From 20 to 60	-	-	357	527
— 60 — 70	-	-	63	82
— 70 — 80	-	-	21	29
— 80 — 90	-	-	3	5
			936	1092
		Total		2028

HERITORS.

Proprietors of land residing	-	-	-	8
Ditto non-residing	-	-	-	12
Proprietors of houses residing	-	-	-	55
Ditto non-residing	-	-	-	18

PROFESSIONS.

Clergyman	-	-	-	1
Schoolmaster	-	-	-	1
Private teachers	-	-	-	3
Surgeon	-	-	-	1
Officers of the customs	-	-	-	19
Ditto of the excise	-	-	-	2
Farmers above 50 l. <i>per annum</i> *	-	-	-	11
Ditto under 50 l.	-	-	-	18
Brewers	-	-	-	5
Employed at a distillery in a neighbouring parish	-	-	-	9
Licensed to sell British spirits and ^{ale} †	-	-	-	32
Salter and salt agents	-	-	-	14
Shopkeepers	-	-	-	23
Gardners.	-	-	-	18
Barbers	-	-	-	2

Masters.

* Three of these do not reside in the parish.

† Two of these are licensed to sell foreign spirits.

	Masters.	Journey-men.	Apprent.	Total.
Smiths	- 9	0	2	11
Masons	- 5	9	2	16
Carpenters	- 7	8	7	22
Weavers	- 12	0	1	13
Shoemakers	- 14	4	1	19
Tailors	- 8	3	2	13
Watchmakers	- 1	0	2	3
Ropemakers	- 1	1	2	4
Candlemaker	-	-	-	1
Bakers	-	-	-	10
Coopers	-	-	-	2
Slaters	-	-	-	3
Midwives	-	-	-	2
Washer-women	-	-	-	8
Carriers	-	-	-	4

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Domestic servants	- 9	73	82
Farm servants *	- 24	5	29
Day-labourers	-	-	19
Coal-drivers	-	-	3
Seamen	-	-	20
Regular fishermen	-	-	23
Persons employed in the potteries, and their families			252
_____ vitriol works, with ditto			188
_____ regular fishery, with ditto			94
_____ salt-pans, with ditto			47
_____ brick and tile works, with ditto			33
			Persons

* Some of the land is rented by persons who do not reside in the parish. Their servants are not taken into account. Some of it is parcelled into lots of a few acres among different tenants, who labour it themselves,

Persons serving in the navy, in the last and former wars 28
 Ditto in the army * - - - - 20

LANDS, RENT'S, &c.

Number of acres in Scotch measure, about - 954
 Valued rent in Scotch money - - L. 5264
 Real ditto in Sterling †, about - - L. 2480
 Number of wheel carriages - - - 6
 ——— carts - - - - 54
 ——— ploughs - - - - 23

STOCK.

	<i>Value of each.</i>	<i>Total value.</i>
Number of draught horses, 88	L. 12 12 0	L. 1108 16 0
——— saddle and carriage		
ditto, - 18	20 0 0	360 0 0
——— black cattle ‡, 58	8 0 0	464 0 0
——— cows, - 65	7 0 0	455 0 0
——— sheep, - 60	1 0 0	60 0 0
		<hr/> L. 2447 16 0

ANNUAL

* Seven of these are Chelsea pensioners.

† This includes 210 l. for orchards and gardens.

‡ The above is the medium price of the cattle when bought. They are fed chiefly on turnips, and sold at about 3 l. profit.

ANNUAL PRODUCE.

Crops.	Number of acres under each.	Med. produce p. acre in bolls.	Price per Boll. L. s. d.	Value of straw per acre. L. s. d.	Net. value per acre. L. s. d.	Total produce in bolls.	Total value. L. s. d.	
Wheat	183.75	9	1 2 7½	1 1 0	11 4 9½	1653.3	1065 9 3½	
Barley	103 75	7	1 0 11½	1 0 0	8 6 10½	726.1	861 11 1½	
Oats	127.25	8	0 14 9½	1 5 8	7 4 0	1018.	916 4 0	
Beans	7.25	9	0 15 8	1 0 0	8 1 0	65.1	58 7 3	
Peafe	42.75	6	0 15 8	1 15 0	6 9 0	256.2	275 14 9	
Beans and peafe	66.25	8	0 15 8	1 10 0	7 15 4	530.	514 10 10	
Tares	2.75				6 9 0		17 14 9	
Potatoes	32.50	30	0 6 0		9 0 0	975.	292 10 0	
Turnips	30.50				4 10 0		137 5 0	
Cabbages	12.50	flowers.	per flouge.		4 10 0	flowers.	36 5 0	
Grown grafs	66	230	0 0 6		5 15 0	15180	379 10 0	
Pasture ditto	186.75				2 2 0		392 3 6	
Orchards	862	Total value of the annual produce of 862 acres						L. 5971 5 6
Cardenground	46 *	* The value of the annual produce of orchards, gardens, &c. has not been ascertained.						
Cabbage plants	16	N. B. Six Shillings are flated as the medium price of potatoes per boll. The price this year (1792) was 8 s. 1 but the crop fell far short of 30 bolls per acre. The prices of the wheat, barley, &c. are the highest flats.						
Plantations & Shrubberies	20							
Fallow	10							
Open Links	954							

Account of Salt delivered in PARSON-PANS COLLECTION, from the 5th of April 1787 exclusive, to the 5th of April 1792 inclusive.

		Salt delivered for the fifth of April 1787 to the 5th of April 1788		Salt delivered from the 5th of April 1788 to the 5th of April 1792		Salt delivered from the 5th of April 1792 to the 5th of April 1797		Total delivered	
		Bushels.	For the fifth of April 1787 to the 5th of April 1788	Bushels.	For the fifth of April 1788 to the 5th of April 1792	Bushels.	For the fifth of April 1792 to the 5th of April 1797	Bushels.	For the fifth of April 1792 to the 5th of April 1797
From the 5th of April 1787 to the 5th of April 1788		6492		16,870	60,477	0	83,839	0	
From ditto	1788 to ditto	3950		17,160	56,028	5	76,238	5	
From ditto	1789 to ditto	4780		16,047	61,752	3	82,579	3	
From ditto	1790 to ditto	5230		16,870	60,235	6	82,335	6	
From ditto	1791 to ditto	5480		22,294	61,387	7	92,361	7	
Total for five years		25,032		89,241	299,881	5	417,354	5	

* This was shipped in one vessel for Stockholm.

N U M B E R VII.

PARISH OF CAVERS.

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.—PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH.—SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODDALE).

By the Rev. Mr THOMAS ELLIOT, Minister.

Form, Extent, and Appearance.

THE parish of Cavers is irregular in its form, and of considerable extent, being upwards of 20 miles long from W. to E. and from 7 to 2 broad. The appearance of the western part of the parish is hilly, and that of the eastern flat. Some of the hills are of considerable height; from one of them, called the *Wisp*, may be seen both the east and west seas.

Rivers, Soil, and Produce.—The soil in the lower part of the parish, from the church to the eastern boundary, at the confluence of the two rivers, *Tiviot* and *Rule*, is rich and fertile, and produces good crops of wheat, oats, barley, and pease. Clover, rye-grass, and turnips, are also raised in considerable quantities. The land there lets from 15 s. to 30 s. per acre. The soil of the upper parts is perfectly adapted to the purpose to which it is chiefly applied, viz. the breeding of sheep.

Statistical Account

Sheep and Wages—The number of sheep in the parish is about 12,000; they are of the long white-faced kind, which bear the short clothing wool. The breed has been much meliorated of late, by means of rams got from the borders of the Cheviot hills, and the wool now sells at from 14s. to 17s. per stone. A common labourer will earn 14d. per day in summer, and 10d. in winter. A man-servant employed in farm work, gets from 6l. to 7l. *per annum*, with victuals; a maid-servant, from 3l. 10s. to 4l. 10s. A shepherd, on a farm where the master resides, instead of wages, is allowed to keep sheep; and on a *led* farm, is allowed three score and ten, and a milk cow, which may be valued at 18l.

Proprietors, Rent, &c.—There are 11 heritors in the parish, and, except the Duke of Buccleugh, all the principal ones reside in it. The valued rent is 18,921l. 16s. 8d. Scotch. The real rent is about 4700l. Sterling.

Population.—The number of births, deaths, and marriages, cannot be precisely ascertained, as few of the Seceders enter their childrens names in the parish register. From Dr Webster's report, however, it is certain, that the population of the parish has increased considerably within these 40 years. The number of inhabitants at present (1794) is about 1300

The number of souls, in 1755, was	-	-	993
Increase			307

Church and Pcor.—GEORGE DOUGLAS, Esq; of Cavers is patron of the parish. The living consists of 83l. 6s. 8d. Sterl. in money, and 2 and a half chalders of grain, half meal, half barley; together with a manse and garden, and a glebe of 11 English acres. Besides the parish church, there is a chapel of ease erected, for the convenience of the western parts of

of this parish, and that of Hawick. The chaplain who performs the duty, is partly paid by the Duke of Buccleugh, and the ministers of Cavers and Hawick, and partly from a subscription by the people. The number of poor receiving weekly support is about 40, for which the heritors affect themselves, to the amount of 140 l. yearly. The weekly collections are given by the kirk-session to the poor not belonging to the list of pensioners.—There is, in the village of *Denholm*, a Cameroonian meeting-house, which is attended by several of the inhabitants and neighbourhood, who are between 2 and 3 miles distant from the kirk; few of them, however, join in communion with them.

Eminent Men.—Lord Heathfield *, so justly famed for his military exertions, particularly his gallant defence of Gibraltar,

* *GEORGE AUGUSTUS ELLIOTT*, Lord HEATHFIELD, the 9th son of Sir Gilbert Elliott, Bart. of Stobs, was born at the paternal estate in the year 1718. He shewed an early inclination for a military life, and soon became an officer in the 23d regiment of foot, the Royal Welsh Fusileers. He left this regiment, and went into the corps of engineers at Woolwich, where he continued till the year 1740, when he became adjutant in the 2d troop of horse guards. He served in Germany, and was wounded at the battles of Dittengen and Fontenoy. In March 1759, he was appointed to the 15th regiment of light dragoons; and, in the August following, headed the second line of horse under the Marquis of Granby, at the battle of Minden. Being constituted a lieutenant general, he was, in 1762, ordered from Germany, for the purpose of assisting, as second in command, at the memorable reduction of the Havannah. He was appointed Commander in Chief in Ireland in 1774, but being disgusted, on his arrival, he made a request to be recalled, which was complied with; and, upon the death of Lord Cornwallis, he was made Governor of Gibraltar in his place, which fortress he bravely defended during the late siege, in the years 1779, 1780, 1781, and 1782. In 1783, he was granted a pension of 2000 l. *per annum*, and created a Knight of the Bath; and, in 1787, was raised to the dignity of a peer of Great Britain. The

honours

tar, in the years 1779, 1780, and 1781, is sprung from the family of Stobs, now represented by Sir William Elliott, Bart. one of the principal heritors of this parish.

Antiquities —The remains of the Roman or Saxon fortification, called *Catrail*, runs through this parish, from S. W. to N. W. towards Selkirk and Galla Water. There are several camps to be found in the upper part of this parish. Some of them appear to have been Roman camps, and others Saxon *.

NUM-

honours which he had thus justly acquired, he did not long enjoy, for he died in the year 1790.

* At a place called *Carlenrigg*, a number of Roman urns were dug up about 5 years ago; but when these camps were formed, or the urns deposited, the present incumbent has never been able to discover. At Priest-haugh, a great number of gold coins were found, supposed to have been deposited by some of the attendants of Queen Mary, when she visited Bothwell at the Hermitage Castle. At a small wood, near Carlenrigg Chapel, the famous JOHN ARMSTRONG was taken and slain.

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF POLWARTH.

(COUNTY OF MERSE.—PRESBYTERY OF DUNSE.—
SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOOTDALE).

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT HOME, Minister.

Form, Situation, and Extent.

THIS parish is of a triangular form, and terminates in a point in the east, where the four parishes of Polwarth, Fogo, Edrum, and Langton, all meet. It is about 3 miles long, and its utmost breadth about 2.

Soil and Cultivation.—The soil is various; the greatest part clay, and some of that on a tilly bed, which is best adapted for grass; other parts of it are gravelly, and some sandy. On the north-west there is a considerable extent of muir.—The whole of the parish is inclosed, excepting a small farm, and the muir allotted by the proprietor to the use of the village, for pasture and fuel. Above 1500 acres are in old grass, and subdivided into inclosures of from 10 to 30 acres, all of them sufficiently watered. These are let annually by public roup, and bring very high rents, for the accommodation of those farmers, who breed more stock than they can maintain at home.

Produce,

Produce, Proprietor, and Rents.—The principal crops in the parish are oats and barley, a few pease, and sometimes a little wheat. Turnips have of late years become a more general crop, and succeed well. There is a considerable quantity of old timber, of good size, besides much young planting, which are, in general, very thriving.—Great attention has been paid by the Earl of MARCHMONT (sole proprietor of the parish) to the dressing of the hedges; many of them are allowed to be the finest in the country. The valued rent of the parish is 1624 l. Scotch. The real rent is about 1000 l. Sterling. Grass land lets at from 10 s. to 30 s. per acre; arable land from 17 s. to 20 s.

Population.—The village of Polwarth is the most populous part of the parish. The population has, on the whole, increased within these 40 years, as will appear from the following table:

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF POLWARTH.

			Families.	Souls.
In the village	-	-	55	184
In the country	-	-	17	104
Total in 1793	-	-	72	288
Number of souls in the whole parish, as returned to Dr Webster in 1755	-	-		251
			Increase	37

PROFESSIONS IN THE VILLAGE.

Wrights	-	-	3	Tailors	-	-	2
Mason	-	-	1	Shoemakers	-	-	5
Smith	-	-	1	Tanner	-	-	1
Weavers	-	-	2	Carters	-	-	3

Village,

Village, Climate, and Diseases.—The village of Polwarth is situated on very wet, and even swampy ground, so that almost in every house they have a hole dug to collect the under water, which requires to be often emptied in wet weather; and yet the inhabitants are very healthy, being neither subject to rheumatic nor aguish complaints. The present incumbent, who has been minister of the parish 24 years, does not remember any epidemical distemper prevailing in the village *.—The houses are very much scattered, not above 2 or 3 at most being situated close to each other. It is probably owing to this circumstance, that epidemic distempers do not spread.—In the middle of the village there are two *thorn trees*, at about 6 yards distance from each other, around which, it was formerly the custom, for every new married pair, with their company, to dance in a ring; from hence the song of *Polwarth on the Green*. But this custom has fallen much into disuse, there not having been above 2 instances of it these 20 years.

Manner of Living.—Almost every householder, along with his house, rents a small portion of land, called *an acre*, but which is often nearer *two*. With the produce thereof, together with what they can spare from their gardens, and the use of a considerable extent of muir, which they enjoy by the indulgence of the proprietor, they are enabled to keep one cow each, and most of them what is called a *follower*. As the rents of their small possessions are very moderate, they live comfortably, and seldom remove, most of the families having been in the village for several generations back;

* In autumn 1790, an epidemic fever and sore throat, which was very prevalent in Dunfermline and in every village round about; made its appearance in two different houses in Polwarth at the same time, but spread no farther.

back; and, for every house that becomes empty, there are always several competitors. The 3 carters above mentioned have a larger portion of land, and keep 2 horses, with which they plough the people's acres; and bring home their turf, which is their principal fuel.

Church *—On the front of the church there is the following inscription:—*Templum hoc Dei cultui in ecclesia de Polwarth, a fundi dpmnis ejusdem prius designationis, dein cognominis, aedificatum et dicatum ante annum salutis 900, rectorioque beneficio dotatum Sed temporis cursu labefactum, a Dno. JOHANNE de SANCTO CLARO† de Herdmansfou genere Dni. Patricii de Polwarth de eodem, circa annum 1378, reparatum, tandem vero vetustate ad ruinam vergens, sumptibus utriusque profusius haeredit, Dni. PATRICII HUME, Comitis de MARCHMONT, &c. summi Scotiae Cancellarii, et Dnas. GRISSELLÆ KAR, Comitissae, ejus sponsae, sepulchri sacello arcuato recens constructum, et campanarum obelisco adauctum fuit. Anno Domini 1703.* The living consists of 64 bolls of oats, 32 of barley, 24 l. 17 s. Sterling in money, with a manse, and a glebe of about 14 English acres.

Poor.—The number of poor upon the roll of the parish amounts to twelve, and they receive in all, according to their different situations, 26 l. 13 s. 4 d. which is raised by assessment, whereof one half is paid by the proprietor, the other half by the tenants. Besides the inrolled poor, there are several who receive from the kirk-session interim

* ADAM HUME, as appears from his tomb-stone, was the first minister after the Reformation. The three last ministers, as well as the present incumbent, were all HUMES.

† That is, Lord JOHN SINCLAIR.

terim supplies ; and others, particularly the widows of such as have been servants or day-labourers to the Earl of Marchmont, are allowed, by his Lordship, some a stone, others half a stone of oat meal per week, which, with the produce of their own labour, enables them to live comfortably. It may also be observed, that there are many old and infirm men, to whom his Lordship, (who has always been remarkable for his humanity and attention to the poor people in this parish, as well as upon other parts of his estates), gives work, or rather wages for what they are *unable* to perform.

NUMBER IX.

UNITED PARISHES OF COLVEND
AND SOUTHWICK.(COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—SYNOD AND PRESBYTERY OF
DUMFRIES.)*By the Rev. Mr JAMES LITTLE, Minister.**Origin of the Names.*

THE name of the parish of COLVEND appears to have been antiently CULWEN. In the 15th century, a *Johannes de Culwen*, the ancestor of the present family of CURWEN of *Workington*, in Cumberland, into which the name, when unconnected with the territory, hath been corrupted, married a daughter of the family of the Stuarts, Lords of Galloway; which is vouched by the principal contract of marriage, in the possession of the Curwen family.—SOUTHWICK appears to be a compound of the English word *south*, and the Saxon word *wic*, which signifies, in that language, *the winding of a river*.

Situation, Extent, and Form.—This is one of what are called *the ten parishes* *, which lie within the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, on the east side of the water of *Urr*, or *Orr*, but within the presbytery, synod, and commissariat of Dumfries. The river *Urr* separates it, on the W. from the parish of Buittle.

* The other 9 are Urr, Kirkpatrick Durham, Kirkgunzeon, New-Abbey, Kirkbean, Troquire, Terregles, Lochrutton, and Kirkpatrick Irongray.

Buittle. It extends, in length, from E. to W. along the coast of the Solway Frith, about 8 miles, and in breadth, from N. to S. about 4 miles, forming nearly a right angled parallelogram. The parish church stands 20 miles S. W. from Dumfries, 16 miles E. from Kirkcudbright, and 9 leagues, by water, N. of the town of Whitehaven in Cumberland.

Surface, Soil, Hills, &c.—The surface of this parish is extremely rough and irregular. No extensive tracts of arable land, or regular fields, are here to be met with; but only small spots and patches, and even these much broke and interrupted by rocks, large heaps or cairns of stones, and impenetrable copses of thorn, furze, and briars or bramble. The surface is generally uneven, all ascending or descending, but the many rising grounds and hills are not very high. For near 2 miles towards the E. end of the parish along the coast, the country becomes more smooth and flat, and the fields more regular, and mostly arable: But along the northern frontier, especially towards the N. E. extremity of the parish, there are very mountainous grounds covered with heath, and running in a chain, into the skirts of the large and conspicuous mountain *Crow-fell* *. In such a country, it is next to impossible to ascertain the precise quantity of arable ground, or even to conjecture what proportion it bears, to the many spots and large tracts of what may be pronounced incapable of cultivation, and utterly unimprovable. The soil is, for the most part, a light loam, warm and fertile, adapted for pasturage rather than tillage. It would be much more productive, were it not for a pernicious mixture of coarse sand, or rather large particles of flint and crumbled granite stone, which too

hastily

* Both in this, and the neighbouring counties of Cumberland and Westmorland, many of the large tracts of high mountainous ground are called *fells*.

hastily absorbs the natural moisture, and soon exhausts the strength of manure and improvement. Of late years, considerable and pretty successful efforts have been made, for clearing the ground of stones and bramble, extending the quantity of arable land, and building fences; so that now almost all that will admit of culture, or improvement, hath been actually brought under the plough.

Sea Coast.—The sea coast here along the frith is remarkably bold and rocky, forming high and tremendous precipices, from which the tide ebbs, leaving dry a large tract of flat sand, from whence, at low water, may be viewed some picturesque and magnificent scenes: High and pointed spires, at the bases of which are passages through them in form of rude arches; spacious and regular amphitheatres, and mouths of caverns running up under ground into the land, farther than any human being hath ever adventured to explore. In the crevices of the rock, but generally where the precipice is overhanging, or most inaccessible, is found the marine plant *samphire*, well known as a preserve or pickle; to the dangerous expedients for gathering which, as alluded to of old by Shakespeare *, the people here are, at this day, no strangers. Towards the east, about the mouth of Southwick water, the coast becomes entirely flat.

Frith, Rivers, &c.—The *Solway Frith*, here, is 9 leagues over. By it there is frequent communication with the towns of Whitehaven, Partoun, Harrington, Workington, Maryport, and Allanby, in the north of England; from whence lime is imported, and conveyed into the interior parts of
the

* ————— half way down

Hangs one that gathers samphire; dreadful trade.

LEAR.

the country up the water of Urr; which is 2 miles broad at its confluence with the frith, and is navigable from thence about 8 miles by vessels of 80 tons burden. This navigable river, about 2 miles from its mouth, forms within land a large basin, commonly called *Gibb's Hold*, into which large vessels are often obliged to put, in stormy weather, where they are well sheltered and safely moored. The water of Southwick is a smaller stream, which falls into the frith towards the east end of the parish, and also affords a convenience for importation of lime; being navigable for near 2 miles by vessels of small burthen. The navigation, however, of the Solway Frith is every day becoming more difficult and hazardous, by the large sand banks which lie in its channel, on which many shipwrecks happen; and which within these few years have risen much higher, and extended themselves much farther out towards its mouth, seeming to threaten, at no very distant period, to shut it up altogether.

Climate, and Diseases.—This part of the country, enjoying a free circulation of air, a warm dry soil, and, like all other rocky countries, many springs of excellent water, might be expected to be more healthy than it is really experienced to be. Excessive falls of rain, brought by violent southerly and south-westerly winds, blowing in from the neighbouring Atlantic, have of late years been severely felt here; and have probably contributed to the frequency of slow fevers, fluxes, catarrhs, and consumptions, but above all to rheumatic complaints, which universally prevail here. In autumn 1772, the infection of a malignant fever was communicated to this parish from abroad, and made great havock: It was 3 years before the infection was quite extinguished. The sudden and loud gusts of south-westerly winds, several of which have been experienced in this part of the country, uncommonly violent within

within these last 12 years, are by some conjectured to proceed from volcanic eruptions from the bottom of the Atlantic ocean.

State of Property.—The old valued rent of the parish is 3183l. Scotch. The present rental cannot be precisely stated: Access cannot be easily had to the knowledge of the rent of some farms; several grounds are in the natural possession of the proprietors: It may probably be somewhat between 2500l. and 3000l. There are 22 heritors, some of whom have property in the parish to the extent of 700l. *per annum*; some so low as 7l. Ten of these are resident. There are no towns or villages in the parish. The farms are generally small: There are about 130 tenants, or persons who may be said to occupy land in the parish, not more than one or two of whom farm to the extent of 100l. of yearly rent; many so low as 5l.

Produce and Cultivation.—The kinds of grain produced here consist chiefly of oats and barley; and of green crops, potatoes, turnips, and clover. The rotation of crops usually observed is, first 2 or 3 successive crops of oats; then the ground is summer fallowed, and dunged, with a green crop of potatoes or turnips; lastly, a crop of barley, along with which are sown ryegrass, and red and white clover seeds: After one crop of hay is taken, the ground is pastured 4 or 5 years before it is again opened up. Lime is used as a manure, and is imported from Cumberland, at 1s. the Carlisle bushel. Shells are found in great abundance on the shore, and have also been much used, but are experienced to be rather too stimulating a manure for so very thin and light a soil. The great excellency of shells, as a manure, is for breaking or loosening a stiff clay, or a heavy wet soil. The farmers here, and all over Galloway, at length convinced of the benefit and importance

tance of dung as a manure, are disusing the practice of laying their black cattle out in the open fields all winter, and are now beginning to feed them in houses or shades. The soil, not only of this parish, but of almost the whole county, being warm and dry, in wet summers produces luxuriant crops of corn and grass. The crops here have been very plentiful these last 4 or 5 years.

Exports, Prices of Wages, &c.—Unpromising as the appearance of the country is, this parish produces considerably more grain than is consumed by the inhabitants. There are generally exported from it, annually, about 2500 Winchester bushels of barley to Whitehaven, Lancaster, and Liverpool; and from 3000 to 4000 stones of oatmeal to the sea-port and manufacturing towns in the west of Scotland; besides considerable quantities of potatoes to the English market. The exporting prices of barley here have been, on an average of the last 10 years, 2s. 8½d per Winchester bushel, and of oatmeal 1s. 9½d. per stone of 17 lib. 10 oz. averdupois. Potatoes are sold at from 20s. to 30s. per ton. The prices of butcher meat here are regulated by the Dumfries market. The smaller articles of provision, such as butter, fowls, eggs, &c. are rather high, as there are very frequent opportunities of conveying them to the sea-port towns in the north of England, where they find a ready market. The wages of mechanics, and prices of labour of all kinds, have of late years risen very high here, as in all the other farming counties in the south of Scotland.

Woods and Plantations.—From the great quantities of large and full grown oak timber, still in good preservation, which are dug up in the many small spots of peat moss in the parish, it would appear that natural wood had abounded in it.

Indeed,

Indeed, the vulgar tradition is, that, a few centuries ago, it was wholly a wood or forest. There are still some natural wood-lands in the interior parts of the parish; and several small plantations of barren timber have been made lately, which thrive well. Very many attempts are now making to rear fruit orchards in the parish; but, owing to the extreme thinness and lightness of the soil, and the unfavourable exposure of this part of the country to the south-westerly winds, they do not promise much success.

Fish, &c.—The kinds of fish taken here are salmon, white flounders, plaice, some soles of a very large size, skate, and, very rarely, turbot; but the great staple is cod, of which large quantities, and some of excellent quality, are taken here, and carried to Dumfries, and other neighbouring smaller towns, and sold at from 1 d. to 3 d. per pound. Of shell fish, large quantities of cockles and muscles are found on the coast; also shrimps, wilks, and other smaller kinds, of little value. No companies are associated here for the purpose of carrying on any fisheries. Most part of the inhabitants, however, near the coast, are occasionally employed in fishing, but all as single adventurers. The shallowness of the water near the shore, and the roughness of the sea in the cod fishing season, render the use of boats in fishing dangerous, and almost impracticable. The shores produce 15 or 20 tons of kelp once in 5 or 6 years; an article reduced nearly one half in price since the barilla act was passed in 1781.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, which is situated near the S. W. corner of the parish, one mile N. from the frith, and at the same distance E. from the water of Urr, was built in 1771, is very plain, but large and commodious. The manse, which stands about a quarter of a mile N. E. of the church,
upon

upon the banks of a lake of 50 acres extent, and in form of a crescent, was built in 1763, for what was at that time understood to be the legal allowance, 1000 l Scotch, and consequently upon a small plan, and poorly executed. In 1777 it was repaired, and some additions made to it. The glebe consists of about 6 acres. The annexed parish of SOUTHWICK lies to the eastward, and the minister possesses also a glebe there of about 8 acres. Although the walls of the old church of Southwick, which stands in a very romantic small strath, about 4 miles E. from the parish church, still remain in many places at their full height, yet there is not the smallest tradition of any incumbent there, or of any circumstance relating to it as a separate charge. It appears to have been annexed to Colvend ever since the reformation. In February 1650, Mr David Hope, then incumbent, obtained decret against the heritors of both parishes, modifying the stipend at 3 chalders of victual, two thirds meal and one-third bear, and 400 l. Scotch of money, with 50 merks for communion elements. By a new decret in 1789, the stipend was modified at 800 l. Scotch, with 40 l. Scotch for communion elements, and the victual continued. However long these parishes have been united, their antient boundaries are still distinctly known. Colvend is to Southwick *, in point of rental, extent of territory, and population, nearly as three to two.

School.—There was modified, so lately as April 1793, 200 merks of school salary, of which one schoolmaster, who teach-

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* There has been found lately a diary of the personal expenses of King EDWARD I. of England, in one of his expeditions against Scotland, kept by his purser, or some of the domestics in his suite, where, among other articles, is stated a small sum, offered, with his devotions, to our *Lady of Southwick*.

es within a mile of the church, enjoys 7 l. 2 s. and has upwards of 40 scholars; his income may be 18 l. *per annum*. The remainder of the modified salary, with 2 l. yearly of mortified money, is given to another teacher, who keeps a school in the eastern end of the parish, and has usually 30 scholars. His yearly income is about 13 l. The heritors have lately assessed themselves in 60 l. for building two commodious and sufficient school-houses, which will be executed in spring 1794.

Population.—Although the number of births, which is generally about 36 annually, greatly exceeds the number of deaths, which is from 18 to 24, yet the population seems not to have increased much these 18 years. This, and the excess of the number of females to that of males, may be accounted for, by many of the young men going to sea, or to settle abroad. In 1772, by an epidemical malignant fever, and in 1774, by emigration, the population of this parish suffered two severe shocks, from which it hath scarcely yet recovered. Notwithstanding these circumstances, however, there has been an increase upon the whole within these 40 years. The number of inhabitants at present, (1794) is,

Males	-	-	456	
Females	-	-	508	
				964
The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was				898
Increase				66

Occupations.—It is impossible to class the above inhabitants by their respective occupations. About 52 are sailors. The farms being numerous and small, many husbandmen are occasionally also masons, wrights, carpenters, shoemakers, weavers,

vers, and tailors, and one man professes sometimes two, or even three of these different mechanic branches.

Horses and Black Cattle.—There are in the parish upwards of 200 horses, being considerably more than are sufficient for all the purposes of agriculture; but so it generally happens where there are many very small farms. There are kept about 650 milk cows or breeders, all the offspring of which are preserved, and carefully reared to aged cattle. There are about 1300 rising cattle, from 1 to 4 years old, kept the year round, at which age, when they are arrived, they are sold lean to the graziers on the south-eastern counties of England, at from 7 l. to 10 l. a-head. All these are of the true Galloway breed, mostly wanting horns, not of the largest size, but very handsome. The breeds both of horses and black cattle in this parish have been much improved within these 5 years.

Sheep and Goats.—There are about 2000 sheep kept in the parish, and about 100 goats in the more remote and mountainous grounds. Among the sheep there are some flocks of the brown-faced small old Scottish kind, with fine short wool; the greatest number are of the black-faced kind. There are also a few upon the lower and more improved grounds of the larger breeds, with white faces, which have in later years been introduced from England*.

Minerals.

* About 6 or 7 years ago, a gentleman of this parish, a Mr CROSBIE, then master of a vessel in the Baltic trade, purchased from some Laplanders he saw at Stockholm, a Lapland ram with 4 horns, of about the size and weight of the common black-faced sheep of this country; but his great excellence was his fleece, which was very abundant, and remarkably fine and silky. He brought him home to this country, with which he seemed

Minerals *.—The rocks and stones, which abound so much in this parish, are all of hard granite, many of them interspersed with veins of flint or spar. They furnish excellent materials for walls and fences. There is likewise a quarry of a free or softer species of granite, on one part of the shore, which is worked for mill-stones, and from whence all the mills in the south-west of Scotland are furnished. Many of them are also carried into the interior parts of the country, and some are sent to Ireland. From 20 to 15 are sold annually at about 3 l. each.

Fuel.—There are very many small spots of peat moss in the parish, which are now much exhausted. The preparation of this kind of fuel, upon which the sole dependence of the generality of the inhabitants has hitherto been, is here attended with vast expence of time and labour, and after all they are but poorly supplied. However humane the intention of the legislature was, in the late commutation of the coal duty, it has been in a great measure frustrated, as
to

to agree very well. He was observed to delight much in cropping the heather, and to prefer it to every other plant the climate produced. He lived 18 months in the country, and experienced all our variety of season. He propagated with a ewe of this country; but both he and his offspring were killed by some other animal, by which means the breed was unfortunately lost.

* About 25 years ago, a copper mine was opened in this parish, near the rocky shore. A considerable quantity of ore was dug up, and sent in casks to a smelting furnace at some distance. It was found to be rich, and actually produced as much copper as cleared all charges upon it; but the work was relinquished. The estate, upon which it was found, was then the paternal estate of the late Countess of SUTHERLAND and Lady GLENORCHY, but is now the property of Mr OSWALD of Auchencruive.

to this part of the country, by the selfishness of the proprietors or tacksmen of the coal mines along the Cumberland coast, who immediately availed themselves of the opportunity it gave them to advance the price of coals at the pit, so far as to keep them still above the reach of the smaller farmers, and inferior classes.

Rare Natural Productions.—Besides the wild quadrupeds, common to all the south of Scotland, there have been found here some few individuals of a species of the weasel, more rare in this country. It resembles the pole-cat, or common founmart, from which it is distinguished by the largeness of its size, the superior quality of its fur, and by being free of that foetid smell which renders the other so disagreeable and disgusting. It is vulgarly called the *martin*, and is the *mustela martis* of natural historians.—There are found upon the shore here some of those wonderful marine productions, which seem to be the links that connect the animal and vegetable systems, viz. the POLYPUS, called also the Sea Anemone. It does not possess a loco-motive faculty, and its organs are too imperfect to entitle it to be ranked with animals; but appears to have somewhat of more *sensation* than can be ascribed to a merely vegetable substance, like some of which, too, it is reproduced from any part cut off. Such of them as are found here are of a smaller size, and their colours are not so vivid, as those in warmer climates*.—Some
of

* A neighbouring clergyman, however, (the Rev. Mr MUIRHEAD of Urr), seems to be of a different opinion respecting this wonderful semi-animal. In a letter to a friend in town he gives the following description of it: "About 5 years ago I discovered, in the parish of Colvend, the *Animal Flower*, in as great perfection and variety as it is in Jamaica. The lively colours, and the various and elegant forms of the Polypus
" on

of the springs that ooze through the rocks are of a *petrifying* quality, particularly in the higher and more rugged hills in Southwick, near Crow-fell, where some chrysellizations are found.

Antiquities *.—At Fairgarth, near the center of the parish, there is a well formed of a very copious spring of excellent water, arched over, which goes by the name of *St. Lawrence's Well*, hard by which are the vestiges of a chapel, with burying

“on this coast, are truly equal to any thing recited by natural historians, respecting the sea-flowers of any other country, “To see a flower of purple, of green, blue, yellow, &c. striving “to catch a worm, is really amusing.”

* About the year 1780, there was found upon the estate of Southwick, belonging to Sir JAMES RIDDELL, Bart. in the middle of a large granite stone, when blasted with gun powder, in a socket exactly fitted to it, a piece of the same kind of substance, smooth and polished, in form somewhat resembling a rude hatchet. It was about 9 inches long, 6 broad at the one end, and 3 at the other end, about the thickness of the palm of the hand; one of the angles at the broad end a little more acute than the other, the corners a little rounded, and sharp round the edges. The virtuosi, to whose inspection it was submitted, did not hesitate immediately to pronounce it to be a hatchet, which had been used by the Druids in performing sacrifice, which conjecture they imagined warranted by the vestige of a Druidical temple very near the place where it was found: But this depends upon an hypothesis which admits rather of some doubt. When the size, the firmness, and solidity of the mass in which it was found, are considered, and the difficulty of assigning any period since the creation as the commencement of the formation of such a mass—indeed our entire ignorance of the nature and progress of such a process, or the time it would require,—it must be owned it becomes rather problematical, whether this hatchet is the work of art, and ever existed in a state separate from the stone out of which it was taken; or if the phenomenon is only a *lusus naturae*.

burying ground * around it, now occupied as a barn-yard.— At the south-west corner of the parish, on a very high promontory, or head of land, formed by the junction of the Water of Urr with the Solway Frith, there are the vestiges of a work of strength, supposed to be Danish; the fosse is still very apparent. It bears the name of the *Castle-hill of Barclay*. Upon the bank of the same river, on the east side, about two miles farther up, upon the narrow top of a small, but high, steep, and rocky hill or mount, have lately been discovered the vestiges of another work of strength, which, from the scanty remains of its materials that are to be found, antiquarians suppose to have been a vitrified fort. The place is called the *Moat of the Mark*, or *Merkland of Barclay* †.

Manners.—The Isle of Man, which lies 24 leagues distant to the S. W. the higher grounds of which are in sight here, is well known, before the lordship of it was purchased by government in 1765, to have been the great channel of a contraband trade with France, to the secret operation of which, the nature of this country as above described, but then in a still more unpolished state, was most favourable. Having the advantage of many secret caverns, impervious thickets, devious paths, and unfrequented tracts, which afforded innumerable and secure hiding places, it is not to be wondered at, if the inhabitants were generally and deeply engaged in it, and consequently addicted to idleness, and to that species of intemperance to which the staple of that trade

* Some people were alive lately, who remembered to have seen some of the tomb-stones and inscriptions, but none can now be found.

† *Vide* ARCHÆOLOGIA, Vol. X.

trade immediately ministred. But the abolition of that trade has had a happy effect upon the improvement of the country, and the manners of the people in this corner; and the traces of these more licentious times, which were a proverbial reproach to this parish, are now almost wholly obliterated. The present generation are trained up in habits of sobriety and industry, for which, and for their attention to their farms and respective occupations, they are perhaps now no less remarkable, than they were in those more dissolute times, for their dissipation.

Disadvantages.—The most striking which occur apply to the whole county of Galloway, as well as to this parish, namely, the disadvantages under which the farmers and breeders of black cattle, the great staple of this part of the country, labour in marketing them.—A number of young fellows, of the very lowest class, who dislike, or affect to be above labour, turn what are called *jubbers*, scour the country, and infest the cattle markets, and, by picking up the younger cattle, intercept a profit between the breeder and grazier, to the prejudice of one, or perhaps both of them. This is an evil which it is impracticable to restrain, unless by something like the following method: That the farmers in general, for their mutual advantage, should enter into a concert, whereby it shall be understood, to be laid down as a rule, that those who rear the cattle shall sell them only to those, who, they know, can graze them upon their own farms or possessions; and that those again shall buy only from those, whom they know to have reared them, or who have kept them at least for months.—Another evil, of which the consequences have been, and presently are, severely felt by many, is the frequent and weighty failures of the greater drovers, that is, those who yearly buy the aged cattle through the country, collect

collect them into large droves, and carry them up to the markets in the south-east counties of England. They generally buy upon credit; payments are not expected, until, in the course of 4 or 5 months, they are enabled to make them from their returns in the English markets, and consequently must, in a great measure, depend upon their success there, which they themselves have the exclusive privilege of reporting to the farmer their creditor. Of these adventurers, who these many years have obtained the credit and confidence of the country, the greater number have at one time or other failed, and some repeatedly. By such failures large sums have been lost, honest and industrious farmers much hurt and reduced, and whole families ruined. It were to be wished that the English graziers, or cattle merchants, were to be seen buying their cattle in our own markets, rather than that our farmers should be obliged to run such risks, in trusting their property to so great extent, in the hands of people, so many of whom they have experienced to be unworthy of their confidence, in order to get it disposed of in the remotest parts of the island.

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF BUITTLE.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.—PRESBYTERY
OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT).

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE MAXWELL of Glenarm, Minister
of that Parish.*

Name, Situation, and Extent.

VARIOUS opinions are entertained as to the derivation of the name. Some have thought that *Boot-hill*, or *Butt-hill*, was the original name of that territory which now composes the parish of Buittle, on account of the frequent musters of cavalry, or archers, that must have taken place in the vicinity of the castle after-mentioned. With as much probability, however, it may be suggested, that the word *Buittle* is but a contraction of *Bowet-hill* or *Bowet-hall*, an appellation occasioned by the beacons in the neighbourhood of the castle alluded to; or the great light which it displayed on festive or solemn occasions. Men of the name of *Bootle*, too, are frequent in England, and to be found in Scotland.—Buittle is one of those parishes in the stewartry of Galloway, that border upon the Solway Frith, and have the advantages of navigation. From the march of Crossmichael, upon the north, Buittle extends southward to the sea. This is the length of the parish, and includes about 8 miles. On the whole

whole of the east side it is bounded by the river and parish of Urr. From thence to Kelton and Rerrick, which are conterminous to Buittle, on the west and south-west, its average breadth may be 3 miles.

Soil, Surface, Hills, &c.—The soil of Buittle is like most of the land in lower Galloway (especially near the mouth of the Urr), kindly and fertile, even beyond its appearance. The surface of Buittle is unequal, and justifies Buchanan's remark upon Galloway in general:—"Nusquam fere in montes attollitur, sed collibus tantum frequentibus intumescit." The hills, however, being mostly green and without heath, have lately drawn the attention of the industrious; nor have their pains been ill repaid, as the soil is often found deeper on the heights than on the lower ground. It is here to be observed also, that there are few hills in this part of Galloway, where cultivation is at all practicable, that do not bear distinct marks of the plough. The depths of the furrows, too, plainly declare, that this tillage has not been casual, or merely experimental, but frequent and successive. This should set both the ancient population and industry of this part of Scotland in a more favourable light, than that in which they are usually beheld. It also affords probability to a tradition repeated by the country people to this day, "That at a time when Scotland was under a papal interdict, or sentence of cursing from the Pope, it was found that his Holiness had forgot to curse the hills, though he had commanded the land, usually arable, to yield no increase; and that while this sentence remained, the people were necessitated to seek tillage ground, in places unusual and improbable." The grass through
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* That King ROBERT BRUCE, and what part of Scotland sub-

the greater part of Buittle is excellent, being mostly what is called the *Sheep's fescue grass*. Exclusive of other good properties, it may be adverted to, that this plant defies extirpation by either bad farming or bad stocking: For often when land is so much plowed that it will bear no more corn, and even the roots of the larger grasses are destroyed, we see the field covered with the fescue in a very short time. Again, by overstocking a pasture, the seed stalks of most grasses are eaten up, and the very roots preyed upon. But the prodigious crop of small seeds, light and easily transferred by the winds, afforded by the fescue, hinders its destruction in the former sense; and the smallness of its fibrous roots in the latter.

Plants, &c.—The natural productions of Buittle differ little from those of the lower parts of Galloway in general, and which, in all probability, will be particularly mentioned in the account of every parish belonging to that district. The plants and flowers in Buittle are no ways remarkable. Even by gentlemen in affluent circumstances, that cultivation of the earth, which produces an immediate return, and connects with general utility, is preferred to attempts of unprofitable curiosity, as to rearing exotic plants, or even those of this climate that are of a precarious growth. This parish, indeed, abounds so much with excellent natural shelter, that it is believed few plants or trees would fail here, that succeed well in any other part of Scotland, if not of Britain. With great safety one might take any bet, that, *communibus diebus*,
the

submitted to him, were under the Pope's curse for a good many years, and that Galloway acknowledged his authority pretty early, every one knows; but if the above tradition, as standing connected with this fact, is true, we may place it among the few benefits that superstition has conferred on mankind.

the thermometer stands higher during the year in Buittle than at London. For some ages, this parish was, in consequence of the above natural advantages, distinguished as a bounding with orchards. Of late, however, these have fallen much into decay. It has indeed been complained of, that for many years past the growth of fruit-timber, and of trees in general, has been less favoured by the temperature of the air than formerly; and some gloomy philosophers have dreaded, that Scotland might experience the calamities of Iceland, or Danish Greenland. Even under less dreary impressions, candour must admit, that, for these 15 or 20 years, new plantations have not come on so vigorously as could have been expected; and that the fruits, such as apples, pears, &c. have not ripened to the degree of perfection, that even middle aged people affirm to have been formerly common.

Animal Flowers.—Till of late, perhaps, it has not been much adverted to, that the animal flower, or water polypus, is even common alongst the shores of Buittle, Colvend, and very likely around the whole coast of the Stewartry of Galloway. The form of these polypuses is elegant, and pleasantly diversified. Some are found resembling the sun-flower, some the hundred leaved rose, but the greater number bear the likeness of the poppy. The colours differ as much as the form. Sometimes the animal flower is of a deep purple, frequently of a rose colour, but mostly of a light red or fleshy hue. The most beautiful of them, that could be picked up, have often been carried from the shore of Colvend, 12 or 15 miles up into the country, where they have lived, fed on worms, and even bred for several weeks, and might have existed much longer, if they could have been supplied with sea-water. In a word, it seems probable, that an industrious

dutious naturalist might discover, on this coast, some of those singular animals, not much inferior to those produced in the Antilles, and other tropical countries.

Fish.—As the south end of Buittle is washed by the Solway Frith, a good deal of fish is taken, and much more might be had. As other subsistence is plenty, however, and as labourers and their families are maintained by their employers, neither choice nor necessity leads any one to follow the fishing business, much farther than as an amusement. Nevertheless, it is believed by many judicious people, that if a few fishermen from the Highlands should settle about the mouth of the Urr, they would find profitable employment, and be of service to the country around. The fish usually taken at present are, salmon, cod, flounders, &c. Cockles, muscles, and several other kinds of shell fish are also to be had in tolerable plenty.

Quadrupeds.—The quadrupeds are entirely of the common sort, and the black cattle (which are almost all polled) are of a good shape. During the time that a farmer society subsisted at Dumfries, which invited the tenantry to shew their best breeding cattle, and distributed premiums, the mould of cattle was visibly improved. Since that society was dropt, farmers have become, it is thought, more careless, both in Buittle, and in many parishes around. The breed of horses is much improved, so far as concerns the purposes of agriculture; but the old hardy Galloway species is mostly extinct. Sheep are kept in small numbers, being thought prejudicial to the pastures where black cattle are fed; nor is the growth of wool attended to, or considered as an object of profit, unless on the small scale of domestic oeconomy.

Birds.

Birds.—To mention the feathered race might here seem to be a matter of levity ; but when it is considered that they, perhaps, of all living creatures, have the most delicate sensations, as to climate and the state of the air ; that nature has enabled, and even instructed them, to choose or to change their residence accordingly ; and that their appearance or absence may afford no contemptible estimate of the increasing warmth or cold of any country, (things much connected with the state of agriculture), one may venture to hazard ridicule on this subject. Perhaps inattention to subjects not visibly important, and ignorance of natural history, might hinder our ancestors from remarking upon birds any ways singular. If that has not been the case, this country has lately been frequented by several that used seldom to appear in Scotland. Since some groves of pines came to be of a respectable growth, the cross-bill has been frequently seen, and it is believed breeds in the country. The bull-finch is common, and pheasants have been observed, which, in all probability, must have come from England. Quails, hardly known a few years ago, are now in abundance. In hard winters, too, the Bohemian chatterer, and even some Arctic birds have visited us. The common moor and black game have disappeared from this parish, since agriculture became extensive, and the heath, broom, furze, &c. were destroyed. Other game would be very plenty, but the game laws have never been rigorously executed in this part of the country, unless when people break fences, disturb cattle, and do the farmers wanton mischief in the course of their amusement.

Minerals.—As to minerals or fossils, little can be here mentioned, serving either to gratify curiosity, or prompt industry. Rock crystals, but of no great brilliancy, are often found. Tales and spars of several kinds are pretty frequent-

ly met with ; and iron ore appears to be in such abundance in Buittle, as well as the neighbouring parishes, that some have thought an iron manufacture might be copiously supplied *. Certain burrows in the earth, frequently talked of in

* Though the writer of this account proposed to be concise on the subject of antiquities, he cannot help mentioning here certain subterraneous passages or galleries, discovered in this neighbourhood. These are dug through a firm kind of gravel, perhaps iron ore; nor is the roof supported by wood, or arched with stone. Into one of these lurid grottos, the present Mr MAXWELL of Terraughty, when a boy, descended, and travelled farther than perhaps prudence could choose to accompany curiosity. The upper part of this passage or cave he describes as above; "the bottom (says he) was like an *ill swept kirk*, and here and there were heads of spears, and human "bones." If those excavations were ought else than iron mines, they must have been places of sepulture. Tacitus, however, plainly says of the Germans, *Funerum nulla ambitio, sepulchrum cespes erigit* †. And though Caesar calls the funeral obsequies of the Gauls, *Sumptuosa et magnifica pro cultu*, he says nothing of their carrying the bones of the dead into caverns. It would be mere pedantry to shew, that a work, such as that above described, has as little to do with the religion of the Gauls and Germans, as with their funeral rites, and the conclusion must be, that such works are perfectly Scottish. Any inquisitive gentleman, wishing to know farther on this subject, might apply to Mr Maxwell of Terraughty, whose affability and good sense need no commendation. Or if any antiquary chooses to repeat Mr Maxwell's experiment, the inhabitants of Auchencroch, near Spottis-hall, will yet point out the entrance. Pity but the celebrated Mr M'PHERSON would explore this *descensus Averni*; the world might be blessed with an appendix to Fingal, and with recent accounts from the spirits of Loda and of Dr Samuel Johnston. In several parts of this country, too, there are oblong squares, made with banks of stone. In the centre there is a hearth; and, in digging up the banks forming the square, collars, chains, hooks, and forks have been found. Such places have, by some ingenious gentlemen, been supposed to be accommodations for burning dead bodies; and certain niches in the surrounding banks, understood to be receptacles for the bones.

† TAC. de Moribus Germ. cap. XXVII.

in different parts of the country, would lead one to think that iron had been wrought in this part of the world, at a very early period. There is still marl in almost every moss; but, as lime can be had by water carriage, marl is now but little valued.

Farms, Rents, and Proprietors.—The generality of farms in Buittle are of moderate extent. Some there are of 300 acres or more; but these, (with an exception or two), consist of broken or hilly ground.—There may be about half a dozen farmers in the parish, who pay 200 l. a year of rent,
or

bones †. Nevertheless, as the chains, collars, &c. seem as fit for holding living bodies as dead ones, there is room to believe those oblong squares were places of sacrifice, or of punishment, which are mostly found synonymous terms, when human sacrifice is in the question. The Scotch are assuredly either of German or Gaelic extraction, perhaps a mixture of both. As to the funerals of these nations, Tacitus expressly says, the Germans used the *rogus* in the common manner; and Caesar says, the Gauls burnt their dead, but states no peculiarities; on the contrary, he rather transcribes Homer on the subject. Regarding the religion of these nations, however, Tacitus says, the Germans did offer human sacrifices to Mercury; and Caesar, (lib. vi. cap. 16.) says, The Gauls offered human sacrifices, some of a private, some of a public nature. He adds, that they sacrificed in this last manner criminals, as most acceptable to the Gods; but innocent people, if criminals could not be found.—One of the oblong courts or squares is not far from the cavern already mentioned. This leads one to compare what Mr Bruce says about the inhabitants at the source of the Nile, their carrying part of their sacrifices into caves, with the assertion of Tacitus, that the Germans had the Egyptian religion, or at least worshipped *Isis*. Perhaps this is the only faint argument, that could connect the caves already mentioned, with the religion of the Gauls or Germans.

† See M. COPLAND of Kings-Grange's very ingenious treatise on this subject, presented to the Manchester Society of Antiquaries.

or upwards ; hardly so many paying from 10 l. to 20 l. The most common rent is from 70 l. to 120 l. *per annum*. Indeed, in Buittle, property of the landed sort is not ill divided, either among the landholders or the tenantry. There are 15 heritors in the parish ;—the largest estate is about 1000 l. *per annum*, and there is only one below 70 l.

Fuel, Cultivation, and Produce.—From a port in the Urr, at Barlochan, or Garden Creek, the greater part of the parish is supplied with lime. That port lies on the east side of the parish, and is central. At Munthes, about a mile farther up the river, some is also landed. Lately (and most timely) coal has been imported at a reasonable rate, namely, at 10 d. the Carlisle bushel. While this country retains its sober senses and habits, it cannot readily forget the persons by whose interposition and efforts this desirable event has been brought about.—Tillage and pasturage are almost equally objects to the farmer here. The greatest tillage permitted is one third of the arable, which is certainly more than is profitable. After liming, three white crops are taken, two of oats, and a third of barley. If, after the third white crop, the farmer dungs and has a green crop, a fourth white crop is permitted, when the ground is always sown out with red clover and rye-grass, the only foreign grasses propagated. White clover, and the perennial red, are so common in the fields, and rise naturally in such plenty, that the bought seeds of these plants are seldom used. Not much wheat is sown. The soil, though kindly, is light ; but that is not the only reason.—The straw of wheat is not used as fodder in this part of the country, though it is in England ; and this, to a farmer in these parts, is a great draw-back on a crop, as most of the farms can maintain more cattle in summer, than can be provided with food in winter : For the same reason, fal-
lowing

lowing is little known, grass being valuable, and the fields abundantly clean, since the corns were dressed with *fans**, a practice equally profitable and universal. From the inequality of the surface of the ground, the watering of land, by the numerous wells and rivulets, is easy; but of late the practice is not much followed, where other manures can easily be had, as it is believed to render the soil thin and gravelly, and to exhaust it so, that hardly any other improvement is an effectual restorative.—Of commons we have not one foot. Ring fences (stone dykes) around every farm, have been erected long ago, and even sub-divisions; but the latter are quite too large, especially for the turnip husbandry. Indeed of late, potatoes, which are exported in great quantities to England, to Glasgow, &c. have superseded almost every other fallow or green crop. The price is from 1 s. to 1 s. 6d. per cwt. as the season is plentiful.—The implements of agriculture are in every respect the same with those in the north of England; and as the intercourse with

White-

* To the credit of this country, this simple and most useful machine was, a few years ago, brought to perfection, by two natives of this neighbourhood. Without this aid, farmers might still have been obliged to place their barns in the most awkward and inconvenient situation, from the view of obtaining wind for winnowing. Even then the corn often rotted in the barn; and fields remained unfown, because the air was calm, or the wind unsuitable, or accompanied with rain or snow. Servants are now set to winnow the corns, in the fore part of the winter night, when they were usually straggling, or unprofitably employed. Their health is no longer exposed in this part of their duty; and, in a word, the date of the corn trade, in this country, seems to coincide with the period when the fan was introduced. It is with no bad intention, that we mention the names of the inventors, to whom the world has been more indebted than to thousands of renowned empirics in politics, law, divinity, physic, &c. The said ingenious mechanics were Mr MUIR, joiner in Dumfries, and Mr KINGHORN, miller of the town's mills, both dead several years ago.

Whitehaven, and the other towns on the opposite side of the Solway Frith, is daily, it is believed the utensils of husbandry are just as well made here as any where else, and better accommodated to the state and situation of the ground, than could be done by a stranger tradesman. No oxen are used for draught, probably owing to the temptation people have of selling those home-bred horses, that are good, to the English and to jockeys in general. The breeding of black cattle, too, is followed by almost every farmer, as far as the nature of things will permit.

Prices of Labour, Improvements, &c.—The wages of servants are, for *let-men*, as they are called, or cottagers, about 14 l. *per annum*; but the articles of maintenance furnished are, perhaps, estimated in Galloway, 2 l. or 3 l. a year lower than in Lothian, and some other counties of Scotland.—Labourers, by the day, get from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 4 d.—Farm houses are generally very good, as well as offices. In a word, the continual repair of drovers, cattle-dealers, and even labourers, to England, and the spirit of improvement that has prevailed in this country for these 20 years past, has made the farming of these parts nearly equal to what it is in the southern part of the island, in all ordinary matters, and due regard being had to the means of the inhabitants of the different countries. As a test of the happy consequences, 4 or 5 of the best farms in Buittle, which, about the year 1747, were rented at 200 l. Scotch, or 400 merks each, now pay, (or would pay if out of lease), 230 l. a piece, whilst the tenants would live incomparably better than their predecessors. One prejudice seems much to obstruct the success of the farmer in this part of the world—it is that of sowing too late. The fields, where the corns shaken by violent winds, if early ploughed, have been known to yield a respectable crop in
the

the following season; in spite of the rigours of winter; and though constant experience declares, that the oats, sown in the beginning of February, afford the most profitable return, still the sowing of that grain is delayed till the middle of March; nor is the seed barley committed to the ground sooner than the middle or the latter end of April. The harvest, as might be expected, corresponds with the seed time. Seldom does it begin before the middle of September, and it is often later, as the soil and exposure of the ground, or as the nature of the season, may decide.

Leases.—In farming, as in most other concerns, a man's exertions depend very much on the prudence of those principles, in which his endeavours originate. In Galloway, and perhaps elsewhere, one maxim seems for ages to have fettered the hands of industry. The farmer reasoned thus with himself:—'My forefathers and I have had this present possession, in which I am now settled, by successive leases of 7 years, or less, for ages. The rent has been still the same; but to keep it from rising, we have not only omitted every improvement, but, in many instances, we have, to our own detriment, been obliged to labour for the depreciation of the subject. This is the consummate prudence of the farmer; and departing from this maxim, every farmer may expect to find his ruin, either in the avarice of his laird, or in the envy of his neighbour; as the latter will offer, and the former cheerfully receive, whatever any parcel of ground can afford, let it be improved at whose cost, or by whose industry, it may.' Two methods of refuting this dangerous maxim seem to have been adopted in England. The one is, by leasing the ground from year to year, and stipulating, annually, what improvement is to be made, and whether at the coast of the landlord or tenant. The mode of farming is thus

thus too fixed. The other is, that of granting leases for lives, or for a great number of years, upon fines, &c. so that the interest of the tenant in his possession becomes greater than that of the proprietor. In this part of the world, a medium has been sought. Few leases are granted for less than 19 years; and it is now, indeed, not so much the question with a tenant, whether his industry will redound ultimately to the benefit of his landlord, or of a succeeding tenant, as whether it will pay him, (the present possessor) in conformity to his skill and outlay.—‘If the farm (now reckoning the latter) is worth 10 l. a year more, at the end of my lease, I may just as well give that for it, as for any other of equal value.’ After all, it is probable that longer leases than those of 19 years would be favourable to permanent improvements, such as hedges, &c. and it must be owned, that as the lease draws near a close, the tenant is often found comporting himself, as if under a conviction that he inhabited hostile ground. To say the truth, however, that narrowness of mind, or *aristocratical pride*, which adjusted every matter of lease, to the visible purpose of keeping tenants in abject dependance upon their landlords, has of late been put very much to the blush. Through all Galloway, as well as in Buittle parish, a prodigious alteration took place in landed property, through the fatal American war, and the scarce less deplorable concern of the Douglas and Heron Bank. Most of the estates brought to sale in this county, were purchased by natives of it—men acquainted with the world, and in affluent circumstances. These knew better things than to ruin themselves with *Baillie-work* *, to put their importance on the number of kain hens paid them by ragged cottagers; or to recommend their own affability, by

encou-

* What are called *Boon-days* in England.

encouraging idleness and intoxication, in ale-house conventions. The permanent part of the improvements, necessary on their estates, they took upon themselves;—their tenants were prudently chosen; the leases they gave were of considerable length; and, to give tenants more confidence and spirit, it is stipulated with several, that they shall be allowed to resign, on a year's warning, if times are distressing, provided they have not committed waste, or done considerable detriment upon their respective farms.

Population.—Before saying more of other concerns, it may be fit to mention the population of the parish, and some matters connected with it.—To save words, and communicate information as readily as possible, recourse is had to figures.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF BUITTLE, FOR
1793.

Population in 1755, as returned to Dr Webster,	899
Ditto in 1793, - - - -	855
	<hr/>
	Decrease 44
RELIGIOUS PERSUASIONS.	Families. Individuals.
Members of the established church	133 678
Cameronians - - -	16 67
Seceders - - -	9 34
Roman Catholics - - -	19 75
Episcopals - - -	0 1
	<hr/>
Total	177 855
SEXES.	
Males - - -	392
Females - - -	463
	<hr/>
Total	855
	Ave-

AVERAGES for three years preceding 1793.

Births	-	-	24	Average of marriages	
Deaths	-	-	24	for 5 years	- 5

AGES.

Persons under 10 years of age	-	-	215
— between 10 and 20	-	-	168
— — 20 and 50	-	-	343
— — 50 and 70	-	-	110
— — 70 and 100	-	-	19
			<hr/> 855

PROFESSIONS AND CONDITIONS.

Proprietors of land	16	Apprentices	-	-	4
Farmers	-	-	74	Public-house keepers	2
Smiths	-	-	3	Schoolmasters	- 2
Joiners	-	-	5	Salary of the principal	
Shoemakers	-	-	3	schoolmaster	- L. 10
Tailors	-	-	4	Ditto of the second ditto,	
Weavers	-	-	8	with bed, board, and	
Masons	-	-	3	washing	- L. 3
Millers	-	-	3	Scholars in the principal	
Household servants	137	school	-	-	45
Labouring ditto and cot-		Ditto in the next school			30
tagers	-	-	38	Prisoner for debt	- 1
Clergymen	-	-	2	Ditto for alledged mur-	
Merchant	-	-	1	der, since 1790	1

CATTLE, &c.

Horses	-	-	195	Carts	-	-	83
Black cattle	-	-	2299	Ploughs	-	-	67
Sheep	-	-	752				

HOUSES,

HOUSES, RENTS, &c.

Farm houses rebuilt within the last 10 years	-	13
Cottages ditto	-	18
Valued rent in Scotch money	-	L. 3445
Real rent in Sterling	-	5054
Minister's stipend	-	73

Commerce.—The parish of Buittle has no commerce, except what consists in the exportation of barley, oats, potatoes, &c. to England and Glasgow, and the sending of black cattle to the English markets. After every accession of agricultural and mechanical knowledge, it is a question but the old observation on Galloway, and especially this part of it, may hold good, "*Universa pecoris quam frumenti fertilior.*" More especially of late, many creditable people have contended, that the improvement of the breed of sheep, and the growth of wool, would render this country more valuable to all concerned, than ever it has been heretofore; perhaps it might here be equally tedious and impertinent to enhance the idea.

Roads, Wood, &c.—The roads are tolerable, rather because the soil is hard and dry, than because the management of them hitherto has been judicious, or the expenditures regarding them liberal. There is not one village in all the parish, nor is there any kind of manufacture. Indeed, for many years past, the want of fuel seems to have acted as a prohibition respecting both. Even the vestiges of some villages, of which we read in the charters of some estates, cannot now be discerned. Of wood there may be growing, and even fit for cutting, at this day, to the value of 10,000 l. and the late plantations abundantly repay the care and industry of the owners. Ash and oak are the trees most com-

mon;—the *larix* is the favourite plant of the day; but its rapid and towering growth renders it incommodious to be interspersed in plantations. It seems thus to be threatened with exile to the tops of hills. Even there, few of the species fail.

Schools.—Knowledge, as to both its state and extent, is as respectable in Buittle as could well be supposed, whilst the opportunities of acquiring it are considered. There is a public school, to which most of the children attending it travel some 2, some 3 miles. The schoolmaster is chosen from year to year, as it is called, and the only security for his salary of 10 l. is the good will of the heritors. There is also a cheaper school, having a stipend of 3 l. *per annum*: Thus the whole funds of public instruction, for the rising generation, for the whole parish of Buittle, are 13 l. Sterling!—What can be the meaning of this parsimony? Is it from the learned, the well informed, the religious,—or is it from the ignorant, “the mole-cy’d, half discerning,” and consequently unprincipled, that civil society just now stands in dread?—From some circumstances, one would think it was from the former.

Poor.—Buittle has no poor’s rate, in consequence few poor, and no travelling beggars. The collections in the church, joined to the prudent charity of well disposed persons, afford abundant supply to those really in need.—Vagabond beggars, the scum of cities, who beg half-a-crown a day to drink it at night, are pretty numerous, and often troublesome; nor is the law of the land very strictly executed, in repressing these pests of society. Indeed, the failure of manufactures at present, affords them too good an excuse for their idleness.

Antiquities.—It is now the disposition of the world, (perhaps it may not decrease), rather to know how things *are*, than how they *have been*. Were it proper to swell a work of usefulness, and to load the page of profitable information with urns, coins, calcined bones, unfashionable implements of slaughter, and other precious relics, over which the conjectural tribe of antiquaries rejoice or lament, we might mention numerous discoveries of the kind made hereabouts. On such matters few words shall be used.—The *Castle of Buittle* is assuredly the most considerable remain of antiquity in the parish. Some have affirmed, that it was formerly called the *Castle of Knare, Nare, or Bar-nare*, and was the chief residence of the Reguli of Galloway. An adjoining hill, named *Craig-nair*, gives some weight to this supposition. Yet when we recollect, how large a division of the British island * once bore the name of Gallovidia, or the province of the Galwalenses, (Strath Clyde), and that several places in this great extent of country, both from name and situation †,

may

* *Buchananus enim, non ab aliis modo, sed a se ipso diversus abit*, says Mr Ruddiman. Here that remark would seem to be justified. In lib. 1. Buchanan makes Gallovidia to signify Gaul in the Scotch language, and what but Gauls were the Galwalenses, or Cumbrian Britons? In lib. 5. however, Buchanan makes Gallovidia a single county, peopled with Hibernian Scotch. Again, in lib. 8. he mentions a dispute between William the Lion, and the King of England, as to the vassalage of the Lords of Galloway, and he makes Earl Allan vassal to both, on decent terms indeed.—The truth is, Buchanan was too busy in settling kingdoms, to be precise as to the limits of counties. Truly does that great man say §, “*Ita tamen cum iniquitate temporum conflexerim ut aliquid restitisse videar.*” Even from the hasty account which he gives, it may well be supposed, that part of the antient *Gallovidia* lay in Scotland, part in England.

† E. G. *Botel*, now called *Bol*, in Cumberland, and *Barnard Castle*, in Durham.

§ *BUCHANAN, de Jure Regni apud Scotos,*

may as probably have been the princely residence, as the Castle of Buittle—there is reason for our leaving those who think themselves competent, and interested in this matter, to decide. Country clergymen may well be excused, for ignorance in concerns very little allied to the success of their labours. Certain it is, however, that the ruins of Buittle Castle denote it to have been a place of strength, and even magnificence. It now belongs, with its precincts, as contained in the charter, to Mr Murray of Broughton, the representative of the Caillie family. The vaults and ditches of Buittle Castle, are all that remain of this proud structure. They have baffled the ravages of time for several centuries, and may for several more. The vaults are covered with large ash trees; and into these subterraneous parts of the Castle, no person has ever penetrated, though it might be done with ease and safety, probably with much gratification to curiosity.—Besides the Castle of Buittle, the only other remembrance of ages equally rude and remote, which shall be mentioned here, is one of those ruins, commonly called

virified

‡ Probably it was built by Allan, Lord of Galloway, husband to Margaret, the eldest daughter of David Earl of Huntingdon, and father of Dervigilda the mother of John Baliol. About 7 years ago, there was found in a lump of lime, taken from the ruins of the Castle, an old coin of yellow metal, a shade lighter than common brass. On one side were inscribed the names of Nuremberg, and several other towns in Germany or Flanders, with the word *Pfennig*, and on the other side a coat of arms supposed to be imperial. The date of the coin was 1220. From this, indeed, nothing conclusive can be affirmed; only about the year 1220, Earl Allan must have been 36 years of age, and must have attained to the meridian of his good fortune and power. After belonging to the Baliols, the Cummings, the Douglasses, this Castle seems to have become the property of the Lennoxes of Caillie.

vitrified forts *. Vestiges of such buildings are not uncommon in the lower parts of Galloway, and the one now alluded to stands on the north-west border of Buittle parish, within a farm called *Castle-Gower*, which lies along the march of Kelton.

Climate

* Few people are ignorant of the romantic opinion advanced and adopted, respecting those vitrified forts, as they are called, namely, that they were structures of dry stone, cemented and consolidated through fusion, which was procured by setting fire to immense piles of green timber, all around the wall or castle that was to be thus ingeniously finished.

The difficulties visibly attending this theory would not be few, if detailed, and may safely be left with men of sense. Suffice it to say, that Caesar leads us to conjectures fully more probable than the above. That author tells us †, that the Gauls, whom he calls *genus summae solertiae*, built almost every wall with a kind of wooden frames, in which the upright beams were placed about two feet from one another, and the void spaces filled up with stone. Caesar commends the invention, as a wall thus constructed did not easily yield, either to the ram or to fire. But in Scotland, a few centuries ago, it will hardly be denied, that most of the castles, not taken by escalade, were reduced by rolling banks, or huge fascines of wood, which were pushed up to the walls, and then set on fire. When one, therefore, lights on a mass of vitrified stones, here and there interspersed with fragments of burnt wood, and bits of charcoal, he is almost as ready to believe, that fire has been employed for demolishing, as in erecting the pile, whatever ingenuity may advance to the contrary. This observation, however, is not offered pragmatically. If made before by any body, no doubt it has been already decided upon. Speaking farther of the upright beams, Caesar says, "*revinciuntur introrsus, et multo aggere vestuntur.*" Now *agger* more frequently signifies a bank of stones, than a bank of earth. He observes afterwards, that the thickness of a wall thus formed was very great.—"*Materia—perpetuis trabibus, pedis quadragenos plerumque introrsus revincta.*"—Agreeable to this, these walls, commonly called vitrified, are ever found, in this part of the island at least, exceeding thick; whom

† *De Bello Gall. lib. vii. cap. XXIII.*

Climate and Character.—As the soil of Buittle is in general dry, as the air of it is good, and the tract of country it comprehends warm, good health and length of days are correspondent to those aids of both. “*Medicina summa medicina mentis non uti.*” With this most important maxim of physic, the inhabitants of Buittle are well acquainted, without consulting antiquity. There is a surgeon about a mile from the border of the parish, and an attorney at nearly the same distance. Either, or both of them, will come if sent for, but this is as seldom as possible. Indeed it is just rather than complimentary, to say, that the morals of the inhabitants of this parish, as seldom need the interference of law, as their health does the aids of physic.—Religion is still revered, and they esteem a *Christian Church* the best *temple of reason*. To mention politics might be extraneous and petulant, rather than serviceable to the work for which this article is designed, were it not that it becomes every good citizen, at a time like the present, to omit nothing that may any wise increase public confidence, or allay capricious innovation. Independent in their sentiments, and in their circumstances, the people of Buittle, (like many of the county to which they belong) seem neither so besotted as to imagine, that any human form of government is without infirmity, nor so infatuated as to believe, that every thing is wrong in our own, and that reformation must be sought in anarchy. The apostles of Mr PAINE seemed at one time assiduous, and his works, (and works of less merit too), were as common as the church catechism. They are now forgotten. One idea has of late
this

and the inner part resembling an *agger* of small stones; but the walls of castles must have been proportionally more slender than those of large towns. In either case, however, the quantity of wood in such buildings must have been very great, and sufficient to vitrify many kinds of stone, if the wood was once fairly set on fire.

more affected the public mind. That spirit of unity and indivisibility, that is, of arrogance and depredation, which has so fatally attracted the rabble of Paris, may prevail in Edinburgh or Glasgow:—Should that be the case, the peaceable and unarmed inhabitants of the country know what awaits them. On this principle, it is believed, more national guards might be enlisted in this quarter in one day, than all the declamations against regal tyranny, or parliamentary corruption, could assemble in a twelvemonth. The lowering the freehold qualification, and the abrogating or limiting the law of patronage, have been the ultimatum of proposed reformation in this country.

Disadvantages.—If these and the like are speculative and imaginary grievances, we have but few real ones to complain of. Instances, however, of this kind might be given. That *PENTE* of the waters, (as modern naturalists say), which is manifested by the retreat of the sea on every western coast, is abundantly remarkable on the shores of the Solway Frith. Many acres there, which were barren sand 30 years ago, are now good pasture land; and in the middle of this arm of the sea, banks or mountains are daily increasing in size, so that they will soon be islands, and will soon be arable. The consequent shallowness of the Frith, and of the river Urr, renders it therefore impossible, that the navigation of the Urr can be carried on by vessels much above 50 tons burden; and these can only find access at the usual landing places, (and the most useful), at spring tides. Now, as the law stands, the fees, &c. of the custom-house, are as high for a vessel of 50 tons as for one of 500, and as high for a boat of 5 tons, as for a sloop of 50. In a few years, however, the trade of this river must be carried on, perhaps, by vessels as small or smaller than any we have mentioned; and the proportioning

portioning of custom-house fees, and the shortening of delays incident or usual there, will then be objects of correspondent magnitude. But the STATISTICAL ACCOUNT, is not meant as a magazine of grievances. May providence avert greater than we have felt, perhaps than we have imagined!

The author of this article, having thus noticed every thing in the parish, where he does his duty, that he conceives helpful to public utility, and connected with the patriotic work he would wish to support, claims from the reader that indulgence, in respect of literary endowment, which may well be looked for, by one who appears in print, from no view of profit or of praise, but (like many reverend gentlemen) from compulsion. *Minus aptus acutis naribus*—If it is now accepted, he hopes it may be a while before he has occasion to repeat the above apology. Devoid of those brilliant talents, and ill supported by that profound erudition, which Doctors, Chaplains, and Almoners only possess, the humble parson of Buittle doubts if he has persuaded the world, that in his humble parish, “all is for the best.”—Happy should he be, in believing, that the sense of the public admitted things to be tolerable.

N U M B E R X I.

PARISH OF CUPAR OF FIFE.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE.—PRESBYTERY OF
CUPAR).

By the Rev. GEORGE CAMPBELL, D. D. Minister.

Situation, River, Extent, &c.

THE parish of CUPAR is situated in the middle of the peninsula of Fife. The river Eden divides it into two parts. It is of an irregular figure, measuring from east to west 5 miles, and nearly of an equal extent from north to south.

Etymologies.—The etymology of the name of the parish is unknown. The names of different places in it are evidently of Gaelic original; such as *Pittencreeff*, (Gaelic, *Pitnan-craobh*), English, the dale; *Kingsk*, (Gaelic, *ceann-gaisk*), English, the termination or ending of the lands of Gaisg or Gask; *Pitbladdo*, a hollow, named after some person; *Kilmarn*, (Gaelic, *Cill-Mha-Rain*), English, the cell, or place of worship of St. Ron or St. Roan; *Balaf*, *Balgarnie*, towns named after particular persons.

Town of Cupar.—The burgh of Cupar, which is the county town, is beautifully situated in the center of the parish, on the northern bank of the Eden, in the spot where it

forms a junction with the water of St. Mary.—The town boasts of high antiquity. The Thanes of Fife, from the earliest times of which any account has been transmitted to us, held here their courts of justice *. It is at present governed by a provost, three bailies, a dean-of-guild, 13 guild counsellors, who choose one another, and 8 trades counsellors or deacons, elected by the 8 incorporations.—The town of Cupar is the most wealthy community in the county of Fife. Its annual revenue, at present, amounts to 430 l. Sterling. In conjunction with the towns of Perth, Dundee, St. Andrews, and Forfar, it sends a commissioner to Parliament. The revenue arising from the post-office, in 1763, was 20 l. per quarter; it now amounts to 90 l. Sterling per quarter.

Population.—The population, which was accurately ascertained in the month of June 1793, has increased greatly within these 40 years, as appears from the following table :

POPULA-

* In the chartulary belonging to the Benedictine Monks of Dunfermline, we find a precept by "*Willielmus, Comes de Rosi, justitiarius ex parte boreali, maris Scotidani, constitutus,*" directed, "*Davidi de Vemys, vice-comiti de Fyfe,*" warranting him to deliver, to the monastery of Dunfermline, the eighth part of the amercements of Fife, imposed in the courts held at Cupar, in the year 1239. In the rolls of the Parliament, assembled in the beginning of the reign of David II. may be seen the names of the Commissioners from the royal burgh of Cupar. The town, in antient times, depended on the Earls of Fife. The castle of Cupar was the chief residence of that powerful family for many ages. The town is in possession of several royal charters, conferring on them extensive property, and many valuable privileges.

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF CUPAR OF FIFE.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Inhabitants in the town	1464	1671	3135
———— in the country	255	312	567
Number of souls in both	1719	1983	3702
Majority of females *	-	264	
The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was			2192
	Increase		1510

A more particular statement of the number of the inhabitants, ranked according to their different professions and occupations, will be inserted, along with other articles, in the STATISTICAL TABLE, at the conclusion of this account.

Buildings, &c.—Cupar, especially when approached by the turnpike road from the east, has the appearance of a neat, clean, well built, thriving town. The streets, within the last twelve months, have been all completely paved at the expence of the corporation. There are no houses in ruins, and none untenanted. Upwards of a third part of the town has been rebuilt, during the last 25 years, in a neat and handsome stile. Considerable additions have also been made.

No

* The number of females, so much exceeding that of the males, must be accounted for chiefly from this circumstance, that the youth of Cupar, at all times forward to engage in the military life, are many of them, at present, abroad in the service of their country. The population has advanced rapidly of late years, owing to the extension of the linen manufacture, and to the increased demand for hands employed in erecting new buildings, and in carrying on important and extensive improvements in gardening and agriculture.

No less than 70 houses, chiefly for manufacturers and labourers, have lately been built on *St. Mary's Water*, or, as it is called, *the Lady Burn*. A street, in a better stile, has begun to be formed, on the road leading from the bridge on the south side of the town.

Church.—The parochial church of Cupar, in early times, stood at a considerable distance from the town, towards the north, on a rising ground, now known by the name of *the Old Kirk-yard*. The foundations of this ancient building were removed by the present proprietor, in 1759; and many human bones, turned up in the adjoining field by the plough, were collected and buried in the earth. In the year 1415, this structure had become ruinous, or incapable of accommodating the numbers who resorted to it. In the course of that year, the prior of St. Andrews, (the head of all the regular clergy in Scotland, and possessed of immense revenues), for the better accommodation of the inhabitants of the town of Cupar, and that the rites of religion might be celebrated with a pomp, gratifying to the taste of the age, erected, within the royalty, a spacious and magnificent church. The year in which this erection took place, is ascertained by the following extract from the Book of Paisley:—“*Sal: Hum. 1415. In Cupro de Fyfe fundata est nova parochialis ecclesia, quae prius disabat a Burgo ad plagam borealem.*” This church was built in the best stile of the times, of polished free stone, in length 133 feet, by 54 in breadth. The roof was supported by two rows of arches, extending the whole length of the church. The oak couples were of a circular form, lined with wood, and painted in the taste of the times. In 1785, this extensive building was found to be in a state of total decay. The heritors of the parish resolved to pull down the old fabric, and to erect,

on the same site, a church on a more convenient plan. This plan they have accordingly carried into execution, at a very considerable expence; and the new church of Cupar is by far the most convenient and elegant structure of the kind, to be found at present in the county of Fife. It is to be regretted, however, that the new building was not joined to the spire of the old church, which still stands. The vestry, or session-house, by intervening between the church and spire, gives a detached and awkward appearance to both. The spire has always been considered as a very handsome structure, and appears light and elegant when viewed from the east or west. It was built by the Prior of St. Andrews, in 1415, only up to the battlement. All above that was added in the beginning of the last century, by Mr William Scot *, who was for many years minister of Cupar.

County Room.—During the period in which the church was erected, the gentlemen of the county, by subscription, and by an assessment on their valued rents, built on a large scale, and in the modern taste, adjoining to the town-house, a room for their use at head courts, for their accommodation at balls, &c. A tea-room, and other apartments, have since been added.

Prisons.—On the opposite end of the town-house, and under the same roof, there are apartments of a very different nature, not constructed for the elegant accommodation of the rich and

* This gentleman was of the antient family of BALWARRIE, possessed of a considerable estate, and a great favourite with Archbishop Spottiswood, with whom he passed much of his time in the neighbouring delightful retreat of Dairie. He died in 1642, in his 85th year, and his remains were interred in a handsome tomb, erected by his family, at the west end of the church-yard.

and powerful, and to add to the splendour of their "gay-spent festive nights;" but calculated for securing and punishing those, who, by their misconduct or their crimes, have subjected themselves to the arm of the law, and which have continued, in their present form, for ages past, the dismal receptacles of the accused, the profligate, and the guilty. —The prisons of Scotland, (if with propriety we can give that name to the dungeons in which, all over the kingdom, criminals are confined), accord but too well with the barbarism which marked and disgraced that remote period, in which most of them were erected, and with that savage and illiberal spirit, which seems to have dictated no inconsiderable part of our criminal code. The prison of Cupar, which is the public jail, for the very populous and wealthy county of Fife, yields perhaps to none, in point of the meanness, the filth, and wretchedness of its accommodations. It is, in truth, a reproach to the town in which it stands, a disgrace to the county which employs it, and a stain on that benevolent and compassionate spirit, which distinguishes and dignifies this enlightened age, and which has led it kindly to attend to "the sorrowful sighing of the prisoner," to meliorate his situation, and soothe his woes. How would the feelings of the benevolent HOWARD, who, with unparalleled activity, and astonishing perseverance, unshaken and unterrified, like a kind angel, went through every land, demanding and obtaining comfort to the wretched, and liberty to the captive! —How would his feelings have been shocked, if, in his compassionate tour, he had turned aside into the peninsula of Fife, and visited the cells of Cupar!

The apartment destined for debtors is tolerably decent, and well lighted. Very different is the state of the prison under it, known by the name of "the Iron-house," in which persons suspected of theft, &c. are confined. This is a dark,
damp,

damp, vaulted dungeon, composed entirely of stone, without a fire-place, or any the most wretched accommodation. It is impossible, indeed, by language, to exaggerate the horrors which here present themselves. Into this dismal recess, the beams of the sun can with difficulty penetrate. Here "is
" no light, but rather darkness visible !" A few faint rays, entering by an irregular aperture of about 9 inches square, barely suffice to disclose the horrors of the place. An opening, or slit, on another side of the dungeon, thirty inches in length by two in breadth, but almost filled by a large bar of iron, serves to admit as much fresh air as merely to prevent suffocation. As the assizes for the county are held at Perth only in spring and autumn, prisoners have frequently been doomed to lie in this cold dungeon, during the rigour of the severest winters.—The consequences may easily be apprehended. It is to be hoped, however, that the period is now happily arrived, when the landholders of Scotland, having more humane sentiments and enlarged views, than those who went before them, will attend to the wretched state of the different county jails, and be disposed to follow the example of the neighbouring kingdom, in which, of late years, many prisons, bridewells, &c. have been erected, on plans of the most extensive benevolence, and of the soundest and most enlightened policy. A sum of money, adequate to the expence of building a prison on a modern improved plan; a penitentiary-house, with accommodations also for the destitute sick, might, it is believed, without much difficulty, be procured in the rich and extensive county of Fife, were a few men of rank and public spirit to patronize and support the benevolent attempt. Were the sum to be levied from the three different orders of men, who are chiefly to be benefited by the new erection, namely landholders, manufacturers, and farmers, the proportion necessary to be advanced by individuals

dividuals would appear but small; and the burden would scarcely be felt by the country. Perhaps they could adopt no plan which promises to be of so much public utility. A measure of this kind will appear every day of more pressing necessity, when the Bridewell now building at Edinburgh shall be finished. If Fife takes no step to defend itself against the influx of pickpockets, swindlers, &c. which may naturally be expected, it will become the general receptacle of sturdy beggars and vagrants; and the rising industry of the country must be exposed to the depredations of the desperate and the profligate, from every quarter*.

Manufactures.—In Cupar, and the neighbouring country, a considerable manufacture of coarse linens has been established. They consist chiefly of *yard-wides*, as they are commonly named, for buckram, glazed linens, &c. There also they manufacture Osnaburghs, tow sheetings, and Silecias. About 500,000 yards are annually stamped in Cupar, which amount in value to about 20,000 l. Sterling. Cupar being the principal market in Fife for brown linens of the above description, webs from the adjoining country, to the value of more than 20,000 l. come to be sold there. All these are purchased with ready money, and sent to London, Glasgow, and other markets.—The linen merchants in Cupar pay annually

* Though, in describing the prisons of Cupar, the writer may have been led to adopt terms seemingly harsh and severe, yet he means not to convey, in the most distant manner, reflections or censure on any body of men, or on any individual. He has frequently had occasion to praise the humanity of those, to whose care prisoners at Cupar are committed, and to witness every kind attention paid to them, which the nature of the place in which they are confined would permit. He only wished to embrace the opportunity, which the present publication affords, of turning the attention of the county, to objects which he deems extremely interesting and important to society.

totally to the manufacturers and weavers, betwixt 40,000 l. and 50,000 l.—There are at present in the parish 223 looms, employed chiefly in making linens of the description given above.—There are two tan-works in Cupar, where considerable quantities of leather are manufactured.—The demand for saddlery from the surrounding country is increased of late years, in an extraordinary degree, and is supplied from the work-shops at Cupar. The bleaching field on the Eden is in good repute. The brick and tile work has long been profitable to the proprietors, and still continues to thrive, but is not yet able to answer the great demand for tiles.

Obstacles to their success.—Cupar, though enjoying many natural advantages; though situated in the midst of a plentiful country; on a river that never ceases, even in the severest drought, to flow in abundance; in the immediate vicinity of lime, free-stone, and coal, yet possesses no considerable manufacture, that of linen excepted.—This want of attention, industry, and exertion in the inhabitants, in improving the happy situation in which they are placed, may, in a great measure, be ascribed to the two following causes. In the first place, *burgh politics* have ever operated here as a fatal check to industry. A succession of contested elections have introduced, and, it is to be feared, confirmed, among the members of the incorporations, habits of idleness, dissipation, and vice. Misled by that self importance, which the long expected return of the burgh canvals bestows; seduced by the flattering attentions and promises of the great; accustomed to the plenty and civility of the tavern, open to him at all hours, the tradesman learns to despise the moderate profits arising from the regular performance of his accustomed toil: He quits the path which alone could have conducted him to peace, and comfort, and independence; he

seldom visits his work-house or his shop, and when the election has at length taken place, and the scenes, which had so much engrossed and fascinated him, have vanished, he awakes to solitude and want, and, with extreme difficulty, can prevail on himself again to enter on the rugged tasks of patient industry. But the success of manufactures in Cupar has hitherto been retarded by another cause, of a very different nature, the great expence of land carriage. St. Andrew's, Leven, Newburgh, and Dundee, are the nearest sea-ports, though all of them are distant 9 English miles. Thus the manufacturer must bring to Cupar the raw materials he uses, at a very heavy expence; and his different articles, when finished, cannot be again conveyed to the sea shore, but at an additional charge.

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5. *Advantages to be derived from a Navigable Canal.*—To enable the industry of the inhabitants to rise superior to this natural disadvantage, it has been suggested, that a navigable canal might be formed, nearly in the course of the Eden, as high as Cupar. The river falls into the sea about 9 miles below the town. The greater part of the channel is already navigable. The tide rises as high as Lydox Mill, little more than 3 English miles from Cupar. The fall from the town is very gradual, and to the place to which the tide rises, thought not to be more than 26 feet. It is thus evident, that a navigable canal might be formed, as far as Cupar, at no very formidable expence. The advantages to be derived from this cut, to the inhabitants of the town and of the neighbouring country, would be great indeed, and could not be easily calculated. Cupar is already the store-house, to an extensive tract of country, for iron, tar, ropes, bricks, tiles, wines, spirits, grass seeds, soap, candles, tobacco, tea, sugar, fruits, and all kinds of groceries. The saving in the carriage of
of

of these articles, to those who deal in them, supposing the consumption to be no greater than it already is, would be immense. Vast advantages would likewise be experienced by Cupar and its vicinity, in the easier rate at which they would be supplied with timber and slates for building, now brought, at a very great expence, from St. Andrew's, Dundee, &c.; by the farmers on both sides of the river, in the convenient supply of lime and other manures; and by all ranks, in the reduction of the price of that expensive, but necessary article of daily consumption. coal—Scotland has at last opened her eyes, to the vast advantages to be derived to her commerce and agriculture, from the ease and small expence of water carriage. She now follows, with spirit and steadiness, the bold and successful steps of her sister kingdom; and when those canals, on a grand scale, which are now carrying on, shall be finished, it is to be hoped, that this cut on the Eden, will be one of the first, on a more humble plan, to be adopted and executed.

Ecclesiastical State.—The district of Cupar formed a parish in early times, when the great parochial divisions of Crail, Kilrenny, Kilconquhar, St. Andrew's, Leuchars, and a few others, comprehended all the eastern part of the county. The small parish of St. Michael's, lying on the south of the Eden, was joined to that of Cupar in the beginning of the last century. The church belonging to the parish stood on that beautiful spot, now known by the name of *St. Michael's Hill*. Human bones are still occasionally discovered in the field, when the operations of husbandry are going forward. The ruins of a small chapel, situated near the eastern boundary of the lands of Kilmaron, were to be seen not many years ago.

The church of Cupar is collegiate. The King is patron
of

of both charges. The stipend, annexed to the first, consists of $8\frac{1}{2}$ chalders of meal and grain, and about 25 l. in money, with a small glebe. Of the grain and meal, there are only paid, within the parish of Cupar, 19 bolls. The stipend of the second minister is about 1000 l. Scotch. There is no manse belonging to either of the ministers.

Religious Persuasions.—Till within these few months, there has always been an Episcopal meeting-house in Cupar, having a fixed pastor residing in the town, or in the immediate vicinity. At present the people of that persuasion, who are now reduced to a very small number, assemble for public worship only occasionally, when the Episcopal minister from Pittenweem presides. The sect of Relief have a meeting-house in Cupar, built in 1769. The number of members in the parish, belonging to this congregation, cannot easily be ascertained, as they are in a state of constant fluctuation. There are also a few Burghers and Antiburghers, who belong to the congregations who meet at Ceres and Rathillet. About 7 or 8 persons assemble on the Lord's Day, in a private house in town, for the purposes of devotion; but their principles and mode of worship are not known.—It is pleasant to conclude this detail of the religious persuasions which prevail in this place, with remarking, that the sectaries in Cupar live on good terms with their neighbours, the members of the Established Church;—that their different opinions in religion seldom interrupt the social intercourse of life, or prevent them from doing kind offices to one another;—that a more liberal and benevolent spirit begins at last to prevail; and that, except among a few, that gloominess of aspect, that bitterness of spirit, and that fierceness of zeal, which in former times marked and disgraced the different sects, are, at the present day, happily unknown.

Poor.—Though the parish of Cupar is very populous, yet, during the last 20 years, there have never been, at any time, more than from 4 to 7 beggars belonging to it. The number of begging poor is at present 5. The number of poor house-holders, however, is very considerable. Fifteen receive from the kirk-session a weekly allowance, proportioned to their various claims. A far greater number are supplied occasionally. Parochial assessments, for the maintainance of the poor, in this part of the kingdom, are yet unknown; yet a more decent and adequate provision is made for the support of the indigent in Cupar, than in most parishes, perhaps, where these obtain, and where the population is equally great. The poor receive annually, collected at the doors of the church, between 70*l.* and 80*l.*; and 16*l.* as the interest of a fund in money, which has long been their property.—In a building which stands near to the church, known by the name of *the Alms-Houses*, and under the management of the kirk-session, a few aged and infirm women are lodged, and, in part, supported, out of the above fund.—But, besides the considerable supplies, which the poor thus receive from the ordinary parochial fund, they are indebted to the liberal spirit of public bodies, and to the compassion of individuals, for essential and seasonable support. The town of Cupar, greatly to their credit, give liberally out of the revenue of the burgh, to the indigent and distressed. The incorporations, too, as far as their scanty funds will permit, contribute to the relief of their decayed members. A Society has been formed, among tradesmen and mechanics, which has the happiest effects. By contributing, when in health, a very small sum weekly, they provide for their support in sickness and old age. The ladies of several of the principal heritors of the parish, who constantly reside in it, have each of them their list of weekly pensioners,

sioners, to whose wants they kindly and regularly attend; and other individuals are not more distinguished by their rank and opulence, than by their extensive charity, and exemplary benevolence*.—It may be said with the strictest regard to truth, (and to the honour of the humanity of the age, and of the place, it ought indeed by no means to be concealed), that no case of private distress is made known, which does not here meet with kind sympathy, and instant relief; that no time of general scarcity occurs, which does not bear testimony to the virtue of individuals, and call forth the most benevolent exertions. These acts of beneficence are by no means peculiar to those of high rank, and in affluent circumstances; instances of compassion to the afflicted, and of relief extended to the indigent, frequently occur among those placed in the humbler walks of life, which do honour to themselves and to humanity.

Vagrant Beggars.—Though the town of Cupar may be
said

* In the year 1782, the price of meal rose to an enormous height. That the poor might be enabled to purchase their usual supply, the session added to their ordinary distributions the sum of 50*l.* the savings of former years. They divided also to the necessitous 25*l.* raised for their use by the humane and benevolent, by the laudable and efficient scheme of a *subscription ball*. Owing to these and some other donations of less consideration, the poor in Cupar were happily preserved from the pressure of want, during that year of general distress.—In the course of the last winter, (1793), coals, all over the kingdom, were extremely scarce and high priced. That the poor might not suffer from the want of fuel, and that coals might be sold to them at the ordinary rate, the town of Cupar generously gave 20 guineas, to assist in reducing the price of this necessary article. A nobleman, who probably would not wish his name to be mentioned, sent to the town 15 guineas to purchase coals for the poor. The residing heritors of the parish also liberally contributed to the same benevolent purpose. One gentleman gave 5 guineas, another 3, &c.

said to have almost no begging poor belonging to it, yet there is no town perhaps in Scotland, of the same extent, where a greater number are daily seen infesting the streets. Cupar being the principal thoroughfare, on the great turnpike road leading through the county of Fife, and no plan being steadily followed, to prevent the numerous vagrants passing from north to south, and from south to north, to beg the whole round of the town, the inhabitants are daily subjected to their importunities and extortions. To the disgrace of the police also, several houses are still to be found in Cupar, that harbour the idle and the profligate, from whatever quarter they come. In the day they prowl in the neighbouring country, giving out, that they are poor from the parish of Cupar, and beg or plunder by turns, as opportunities offer. At night, they return to the infamous receptacles which they had left in the morning, dispose there of their spoils, and riot and carouse, at the expence of the simple, the sober, and the industrious. In truth a sum of money could not be laid out by the community so frugally, or so much to the advantage of the town and of the neighbourhood, as in hiring a person, whose sole business it should be to prevent foreign poor from begging in Cupar, and to apprehend all vagrant strangers, who cannot give a proper account of themselves.

It is hoped, that it will not be deemed improper, or in any degree disrespectful to the laws and constitution of the country, to conclude this article with observing, that the acts of the Parliament of Scotland, intended to operate for the regulation and maintenance of the poor, are many of them become of little use, and inapplicable to the present state of society. Whoever has lived in England; whoever has paid attention to the legal provision made in that country, for the maintenance of the poor; whoever has witnessed the formidable amount to which the tax in some districts rises, how
fatally

fatally it sometimes operates, as an encouragement to idleness, and check to industry; whoever has paid attention to these circumstances, would never wish to see *poor's rates* established in Scotland. Yet, every one who has been, during any considerable length of time, concerned in the management of a parish fund in this country, must frequently, from the imperfection and inconsistency of our acts of Parliament relating to this business, have felt himself diffculted, and must have wished for a new law, containing proper regulations on this subject, so very important and interesting to society—particularly for a statute, defining accurately these two points:

1st, Who are the poor, or who are they who have a legal claim to maintenance in a parish?

2^{dly}, Who are the sole and legal administrators of the funds belonging to the poor*?

Schools.—The schools of Cupar meet in a convenient and handy

* The arguments against the establishment of poor's rates, have often been stated to the public. It is unnecessary here to repeat them. From what has been represented, with respect to the maintenance of the poor of Cupar, it is evident that a decent provision may be made for the indigent, without adopting a practice, that has been attended with such pernicious effects wherever it has been established. If the landholders of Scotland understand their own interest; if they entertain a deep and grateful sense of the prudence, and purity, and disinterestedness of ministers and kirk-sessions, in the management of the funds belonging to the poor intrusted to their care; if they are interested in the comfort of those with whose welfare their own prosperity is intimately connected—while they reprobate parochial assessments, and all their baleful consequences to society, they will cheerfully follow the only plan, which, in many parishes, can prevent their establishment—they will regularly contribute, on the Lord's Day, to the relief of the poor in those parishes where their property lies, whether they reside or not, and whether or not they attend public worship.

handsome building, erected in the year 1727, by the Magistrates and Council, who are patrons, in a very pleasant and airy situation, on the Castle-hill. The house is divided into two apartments, which have separate entries, and which have no communication with each other. In the one are taught Latin, French, Geography, &c. ; in the other, English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, mensuration, &c. The rector of the grammar school has a salary of 30 l.; the master of the English school, a salary of 17 l. Both are paid by the town. The fees paid by the scholars, as regulated by the Town Council, are 3 s. per quarter for Latin, 1 s. 6 d. for English, 2 s. for writing and arithmetic, besides dues paid at the new year and Candlemas. The school of Cupar has, in different periods, been in high repute; and, from the attention, ardour, and abilities of the present teachers, bids fair to attain its antient celebrity.

Climate, Diseases, &c.—The inhabitants of Cupar justly boast of the salubrity of the air in which they breathe. Situated in the dry bottom of a delightful vale, blessed with many abundant springs of the purest water, washed by the river Eden on the south, and the stream of St. Mary on the north, fenced from the violence of every tempest, by the green and fertile hills which almost encircle the town, and bound the plain of Eden, they often enjoy a happy exemption from those diseases which lurk in marshy districts, and which frequently visit and afflict tracts of country, at no very considerable distance. The running waters, which never cease to fill the channels of the Eden, no doubt, in a particular manner, contribute to the health of the inhabitants, and to the beauty of the surrounding region. The placid stream of the river, and the scenery, which diversifies

and adorns its banks, long since touched the imagination of the Poet *, and found a place in his song.

"Arva inter nemorisque umbras, et pasce lacta

"Lene fluens, vitreis, labitur Ebor, aquis."

The view from the Castle-hill, though it cannot boast of being extensive, yet, in point of richness, beauty, and variety, yields perhaps to few prospects which are purely inland. On all sides, the cheerful aspect of a cultivated and thriving country meets the eye. Numerous farm houses stud and enliven the surrounding gentle acclivities. At various distances, buildings of a more magnificent form, elegant and stately villas, tower on the rising grounds †. It may with truth be affirmed, that diseases have seldom proved epidemic in Cupar. Few infants now die of the small-pox, as inoculation, under the direction of excellent practitioners, daily gains ground. Many of those, who are cut off in the early period of life, seem to fall victims to a cruel and fatal disease, till of late but seldom noticed by physicians, the croup, or inflammation of the wind-pipe. It belongs to others to attempt to account for the frequency of this distemper.—The vale in which Cupar is situated, though possessing many advantages, is sometimes visited by dreadful thunder

* JONESTONE.

† Attracted by the pleasant and healthful situation of the vale in which the town stands, our kings, when they lived in the neighbouring palace of Falkland, placed (says the current tradition) the family nursery at Cupar; and the royal children had apartments fitted up for them, in the religious house belonging to the Benedictines, adjoining to the castle, now the residence of the Hon. Lady Elizabeth Anstruther.

thunder storms. Fatal accidents from lightning have frequently been experienced *.

Longevity.—Many in the parish of Cupar have attained, if not to the utmost period of human life, yet to a very great longevity. It is not to be doubted, that in every place, and in every age, persons have frequently reached a length of days far beyond the period allotted to the ordinary race of mortals. But we are disposed to give too easy faith to the many instances which are published to the world, from every quarter, of persons having attained to extreme old age, from that love of the marvellous which is natural to man, and from that fond desire of protracting life to the utmost span, which, in defiance of the sober dictates of reason, and the frequent checks of experience, we foolishly and obstinately cherish. Whoever will take the trouble to inquire minutely into the history of those, within the circle of his own acquaintance, who have died in advanced age, and who have been reported, in every publication of the day, to have reached their hundredth, or hundred and tenth year, will find, that in truth, in almost every instance, considerable deductions must be made from the exaggerated account. Whoever attends to the numerous instances of longevity, collected by the late Dr Fothergill, must be sensible, that the evidences

* On the 30th of April 1735, a black-smith, while employed in shoeing a horse before the door of his work shop, was struck down in the street, and instantly expired. On the 26th of September 1787, the inhabitants were alarmed by a tremendous peal. Every person trembled, while he inquired after the fate of his children and his domestics. The melancholy tidings were instantly spread over the town, that four men had been killed in the old correction-house, at that time used as a wright's shop. Two of the four, though severely stunned and wounded, gradually recovered. The other two were found without any remains of life.

dences on which they are made to rest, newspapers and other periodical publications, are by no means entitled to the attention and belief of a sincere inquirer after truth. Even the great Lord Verulam, when writing on this subject, loses that acuteness, sagacity, and strength of mind, which he usually displays, and descends to the level of the weakest, the most sanguine and credulous, of the speculating philosophic tribe. He seems to give credit to the accounts recorded by Pliny, in his natural history, of 124 persons, who, in the reign of Vespasian, were found in that district of Italy, lying between the Appenine mountains and the river Po, who had all lived beyond the age of 100, and many of them to their hundred and thirtieth, or hundred and fortieth year. Notwithstanding the many amusing histories, which have been given to the public, of the vigour and feats of those who are now alive in this country, and who have passed the hundredth year of their age, yet should any one undertake to produce satisfying evidence, that there are *two* persons only in the county in which he resides, who have reached this extreme age, he would find himself engaged in a difficult, and probably fruitless, attempt *. The annexed instances

* In the register of burials belonging to the parish of Capar, the following entry is made: "Buried, 21st December 1757, *LADY DENBRAE*, aged 107 years." It was the general belief of the town and neighbourhood, that this lady, whose maiden name was Fletcher, and who had been married to — Preston, Esq; of Denbrae, was, at the time of her death, 106 or 107 years old. Her friends, when talking of the length of days to which she had attained, never failed to boast, that she was one of the celebrated beauties who graced the Court of the Duke of York, when he resided in the palace of Holyrood-house, in the reign of his brother Charles II. Upon the most accurate investigation, however, of every circumstance that could be traced, relating to the age of this female, who had long survived all her contemporaries, it has been found, that she had but just completed her 99th year.

stances of longevity, however, in the parish of Cupar, may be relied on as perfectly authentic *.

Antiquities.

* JAMES WEMYSS, Esq; of Wintham, who was born in the beginning of 1696, died in the month of March last, (1793) in his 98th year. This gentleman, whose stature did not exceed the common size, but who was handsome and well made, possessed a very uncommon degree both of bodily and mental vigour. Through the whole of life, he never failed to rise in the morning at an early hour; was frequently on horse-back; was no enemy to the free circulation of the glass, though, upon the whole, he might justly be said to be regular and temperate. He possessed, in an eminent degree, the politeness peculiar to the last age, and long remained a venerable specimen of the antient school of manners. He was the only person, the writer of these statements ever knew, who retained, in extreme old age, the same use of all the mental faculties, which had been the possession and enjoyment of youth and manhood. When he was upwards of 90, he not only regularly amused himself, several hours every day, with reading, particularly history, but could give a distinct account of the subject to which he was directing his attention. He had never, in the course of his long life, been confined to his bed a single day by sickness. And even when he began to feel the gradual approaches of age, and decays of nature, he was in a great measure exempted from the weaknesses and sufferings incidental to this mournful period. Though he was born in one century, and lived to see almost the conclusion of the next, and thus ought to have passed through the seven ages of human life marked by the Poet, yet the description of the last stage, given by the bard of nature, was by no means applicable to the concluding period of his existence. He never, indeed, reached the "last scene of all, that ends the "strange, eventful history of man, second childishness, and mere "oblivion." Attacked at last by the resistless power of fever, he retired to his apartment, and, after a confinement of 4 days, yielded to the universal law of nature.

The venerable Sir ROBERT PRASSTON, late minister in the first charge at Cupar, died in September 1791, having nearly completed the sixty-first year of his ministry. He was first admitted a minister of the church at Arbirlot, in the county of Angus, and out-lived, during the course of several years, all the members

Antiquities.—The parish of Cupar affords little to interest or to gratify the antiquarian *.—Cairns of stones, or *tumuli*, containing the remains of human bodies, are frequent in this district,

members of the synod of Angus and Mearns, though they amounted to no less a number than 80.—Mr William Miller of Star, and Mr Alexander Melvil of Kilmaron, were born in Cupar in the course of the same year, and lately died in it, at no great distance of time from each other, about the age of 98. The union of the last of these two with his wife had subsisted upwards of 60 years.—David Brown weaver, and his wife, who both lately died, had lived in the married state during the same uncommon length of time.—There were living, about 10 years ago, 5 men in the town of Cupar, all considerably upwards of 90, and who all died nearly about the same time, viz Walter Douglas, musician, 96 years old; David Brugh, gardner, 95; John Lorimer, weaver, 94; James Anderson, wright, 91; and ——— Lumisdain, day-labourer, 92. The first of these, Walter Douglas, who died in his 97th year, was town-drummer, had served the corporation in that capacity 74 years, and, at the time of his death, might perhaps have been justly accounted the oldest office-bearer in the kingdom. He was of low stature, but broad chested and well built. Through the whole of life, he could only command coarse and scanty fare, and knew none of the advantages of warm and comfortable lodging. Angling was his favourite amusement, and he continued to fish on the river till within a little of his death. He was of a family in the town, who had long been noted for their longevity. His brother John died nearly of the same age with himself, after having buried a son upwards of 72. Some of the same name still reside in the town, who preserve a striking likeness to the family, who possess the same robust appearance and vigorous frame, and who bid fair to equal the age of their fathers.

* In levelling a piece of ground, in order to form the turn-pike road that leads from Cupar to the east, there were lately found, in the vicinity of the Castle-hill, several stone coffins containing human skeletons. The coffins were adorned with the figures of warriors, rudely sculptured, and covered with unknown characters. English and French coins, of considerable antiquity, have been dug up, in removing the rubbish from the ground where the Castle once stood.

district, similar to those found in many different parts of the country*.

Carllogie House.—The house of Carllogie, distant about a mile from Cupar, on the road that leads to the west, is the most ancient family seat in the parish. It had been originally intended for a place of security and strength. Colonel Clephane, the present proprietor of Carllogie, is the 20th of that name, who, in regular descent, has possessed the estate†. In a field adjoining to the house of Carllogie, and near to the public road which leads from Cupar to the west, the

* One of these was lately opened on the heights of Middlefield, about an English mile to the north-east of Cupar. In this were found several urns, of baked clay, inclosing the ashes of the warriors of a distant age. That the urns were not Roman, appeared from the nature of the instruments of war, placed by the side of them. The heads of the battle-axes were formed of a very hard stone, of a white colour, neatly shaped, and nicely carved and polished. These arms must have been employed by a rude people, strangers to the use of iron. Two of these battle-axes are in the possession of a gentleman in Cupar. The spot where these tumuli had been formed, from the remains of ramparts that had surrounded it, seems to have been, in some remote period, a military station of considerable importance; and to have been a height well adapted for that purpose, commanding a very extensive prospect to the ocean on the east, and to the Ochil hills on the west.

† The *CLERHANES*, who for many ages have been proprietors of the Castle and the surrounding grounds, in times of barbarism, confusion, and disorder, often leagued with the neighbouring ancient family of the Scots of Scotstarvet, who inhabited a strong tower, (Scotstarvet Tower), which is still entire, situated about two English miles south from Carllogie. On the appearance of an enemy, *burns*, from the battlements of the castle from which the hostile force was first descried, announced its approach, and the quarter from whence it was advancing; and both families, with their dependents, were instantly under

the stately and venerable remains of an ash, which for several centuries has retained the name of the *Jug Tree**, strikes the eye of the traveller.

Garlie Bank.—The Garlie Bank, the property of James Wemyss, Esq; of Wintham, situated to the south of Cupar, and the highest ground in the parish, has been rendered famous by the treaty signed there, on the 13th of June 1559, betwixt the Duke of Chattelrault, and Monsieur D'Oysel, commanding the army of the Queen regent, and the Earl of Argyle,

under arms. There is a charter belonging to the family, bearing that "*DUNCANUS, Comes de FYFE, confirmat JOHANNI de CLEPHANE, et haeredibus, totam terram de Clesflogie, et de Eri-therrogerwale, (Uthrogyle), adeo libere, sicut DAVID de CLAPHANE, pater ejus, et predecessores, eas tenuerunt. Testibus Domino Alexandro de Abernethy, Michael et David de Wemyss, Hugone de Lochor, Johanne de Ramsay, cum multis aliis.*" From the æra at which these witnesses lived, the charter must have been given, at the latest, in the beginning of the reign of Robert I. The family have been in possession, time immemorial, of a hand made in exact imitation of that of a man, and curiously formed of steel. This is said to have been conferred by one of the kings of Scotland, along with other more valuable marks of his favour, on the Laird of Carllogie, who had lost his hand in the service of his country.

* The iron jugs, in which the offenders on the domains of Carllogie suffered the punishments, to which they were doomed by their lords, fell from the hollow body of this tree, in which they had been infixed, only about 3 years ago. During the course of the greater part of this century, suspended in the view of every passenger, they silently, but impressively, reminded him, to rejoice that he lived in a happy and meliorated period, in which the oppressive jurisdictions, and capricious and cruel punishments, to which his fathers were long subjected, are entirely annihilated, and mild, equal, and powerful law, hath extended its protecting arm to the meanest individual, in the most distant cot, in this free and favoured land.

Argyll, and Lord James, prior of St. Andrews, leading the forces of the Congregation *.

Mote-hill, Temple Tenements, &c.—A motund of earth rising considerably above the adjoining grounds, extends to a great length on the north side of Cupar, called *the Mote*, or, as some write it, the *Meat-hill* †.—The Knights Templars

* The hostile camps were only separated by the river Eden. The morning of the day had been employed by the generals of both armies, in making the necessary arrangements for a decisive engagement. The advanced parties were now about to close, when the Duke sent a messenger to the Lords of the Congregation, to demand a conference. They, equally unwilling to risk a general action, complied with the request. The principal men in both armies repaired to the highest eminence of the Garlie Bank, a spot known by the name of the *Howlet*, or *Owl Hill*, and which commanded a full view of the whole plain wherein the troops were now drawn up in order of battle, and there adjusted and signed that truce, in consequence of which the forces of the Queen retired to Falkland, from whence they had that morning advanced; and those of the Congregation to Cupar, St. Andrew's, and Dundee. The violent reformer, Knox, having completely destroyed the religious houses at Perth, Cupar, Crail, and St. Andrew's, had repaired to the camp at Cupar Muir, and by his rude, but impressive eloquence, inflamed the zeal of the Lords of the Congregation. He details, in his History, (pages 141. 142.), the events of the morning of the 13th of June, with all the minuteness and ardour natural to one who had so deep an interest in every important public transaction, and who had staked his reputation and his fortunes on the success of Argyll, and the party who adhered to him.

† They who use the latter orthography contend, that this rampart is formed of artificial earth; that it originally extended as far as the Castle; and was constructed to defend the town from any sudden attack from the north, as the river, in some measure, secured it on the south. There is no doubt, however, that it ought to be stiled the *Mote Hill*, as it was probably the place where, in early times, the Justiciary of Fife held his courts, and published his enactments, for the regulation of

plars had considerable possessions in land adjoining to Cupar on the south. There are still two houses, in different parts of the town, called *Temple Tenements*, which belonged to that order. They now hold of the Earl of Haddington, and enjoy all the privileges and exemptions usually attached to the possessions of the Templars.—The only religious house which existed in Cupar, at the time of the Reformation, was a convent of Dominican, or Black Friars. It was situated at the foot of the Castlehill, and connected with the Castle *. A considerable part of the chapel, built of cut free-stone, still stands.

Playfield,

the country. The Latin name, by which this hill is sometimes mentioned, must decide the controversy, if with any plausibility it could ever have been maintained;—“*Mons placiti*,” which may be translated “*Statute-hill*.”

* No part of the Castle now remains. Though long the residence of the Earls of Fife, it had at last become a national fortress. It had been a place of considerable strength. Buchanan styles it *Arx munitissima Cuprensis*. The English were in possession of it anno 1297. In the course of that year, it was recovered by the bravery of Wallace. [*Buchan. Hist. book viii.*]—Robert Wishart, bishop of Glasgow, who had joined the party of Bruce, after the murder of Comyn, held the Castle of Cupar against the English. He was made prisoner there, arrayed in armour, and, in that uncanonical garb, was conducted to the Castle of Nottingham. This happened anno 1306. [*Darvymple's Annals*, vol. II.]—Edward Baliol, assisted by Edward III. of England, reviving his pretensions to the crown of Scotland, defeated the Scotch at Halidon, *anno Dom.* 1333, during the minority of David II.; upon which the greater part of the kingdom submitted to him. Upon this occasion, we find the Castle of Cupar entrusted to William Bullock, an ecclesiastic of eminent abilities, chamberlain of Scotland, in whom Baliol placed his chief confidence. [*Darvymple.*]—The king was again put in possession of this fortress, by the successful valour of William Douglas, and soon after he caused it to be entirely demolished.

Playfield, &c.—During the dark ages, theatrical representations, called *mysteries* or *moralities*, (the persons allegorical, such as Sin, Death, &c.) were frequently exhibited. The place, where these entertainments were presented, was called *the Playfield* *. “ Few towns of note,” says Arnot, in his
History

* The pieces presented in the Playfield of Cupar, however, seem not, at the æra of the Reformation, to have had any connection with religious subjects, but were calculated to interest and amuse, by exhibiting every variety of character, and every species of humour. To illustrate the manners which prevailed in Scotland in the 16th century, and as a specimen of the dramatic compositions which pleased our fathers, Arnot, in the appendix to his History, gives a curious excerpt from a manuscript comedy, which bears to have been exhibited in the Playfield at Cupar, and which had been in the possession of the late Mr Garrick

That part of the excerpt only, which relates to the place where the play was presented, is here transcribed.

“ Here begins the proclamation of the play, made by DAVID LINDSAY of the Mount †, Knight, in the Playfield, in the month of
the year of God 1555 years.”

“ Proclamation made in Cupar of Fife.

“ Our purpose is on the seventh day of June,

“ If weather serve, and we have rest and peace,

“ We shall be seen into our playing place,

“ In good array about the hour of seven.

“ Of thriftiness that day, I pray you cease ;

“ But ordain us good drink against allevin §.

“ Fail not to be upon the Cattlehill,

“ Beside the place where we purpose to play ;

“ With gude stark wine your flaggons see you fill,

“ And had yourselves the merriest that you may.

“ Cottager. I shall be there, with God’s grace,

“ Tho’ there were never so great a price,

“ And foremost in the fair :

“ And drink a quart in Cupar town,

“ With my gossip John Williamson,

“ Tho’ all the nolt should rair,” &c.

† The MOUNT, formerly the estate of Sir DAVID LINDSAY, lies in the immediate neighbourhood of Cupar.

§ i. e. Eleven.

History of Edinburgh, "were without one. That of
 "Edinburgh was at the Greenside-well; that of Cupar in
 "Fife was on their *Castle-bill*."

Agriculture.—Fife, though possessing natural advantages superior to those enjoyed by many neighbouring counties, was, till of late, far behind them in the important knowledge, and valuable improvements of agriculture.—The herring fishery, the making of salt, the burning of lime, and working of coal mines, circumstances which might naturally have been expected to accelerate a meliorated husbandry, contributed long to retard its progress. Occupied entirely in the pursuit of these objects, the great landholders in Fife were unhappily diverted from paying that attention to the surface of the ground, which would not have failed to have made a more certain and valuable return for the expence which they often incurred, and the activity and industry they exerted. During the last 15 years, however, in many districts of the county, the landholders and farmers have adopted and prosecuted every plan of modern improvement, with a degree of eagerness, perseverance, and success, not surpassed in any corner of the island. That part of the county, in particular, which lies between the Eden and the Tay, naturally fertile, has been subjected to a new and better mode of cultivation. The farmers in this district, with a liberality which does them honour, readily acknowledge, that they are indebted for many essential improvements, which are now general among them, to the example of those who have come to settle in Fife, from the opposite country of the Carse of Gowrie.

Improvements.—The grounds adjoining to Cupar, on the
 north,

north, having lately passed into the hands of new masters, who have spared no expence to drain and inclose them, who have enriched them with abundance of manure, and employed them in a proper rotation of crops, have entirely changed their appearance, and now afford a pleasing proof of the power of cultivation. From the improvements which have been mentioned, the erection of handsome houses, by the different proprietors, and the plantations which have been formed, the whole presents to the eye the appearance of what the French call *ferme ornée*.

Hills, Plantations, &c.—The country around Cupar cannot be said to be level, as the grounds, in general, rise to a considerable height on both sides of the Eden; yet there are no hills in the parish, except those of Wemyss-hall and Kilmarn, both of which are cultivated to the top. There are extensive and thriving plantations on Cupar Muir, but no trees of age or size, except at Carslogie and Farvet, the family seat of Patrick Rigg, Esq; of Morton. At the last mentioned place, the pleasure grounds, laid out with taste, around the spacious and elegant house lately built there, derive much of their beauty from the appearance of the antique and lofty trees scattered through the lawn.

Soil.—The soil, on the north side of the Eden, is in general of an excellent quality, black and deep, on a dry whinstone bottom. The soil on the south side of Eden, as soon as you leave the valley, is cold and thin, and, in general, on a bottom of till.

Farms, Crops, &c.—The farms contain from 100 to 300 acres. The rotation of crops, on the best black land, is the following:

following: 1. Clover and rye-grass; 2. Wheat with dung; 3. Barley; 4. Drilled beans, with dung; 5. Wheat; 6. Turnips or potatoes; 7. Barley; 8. Oats, with grass seeds. Thus, in the course of the 8 years, we have one eighth clover, two eighths wheat, two eighths barley, one eighth drilled beans, one eighth turnips or potatoes, and one eighth oats. —The following rotation is observed in clay land: 1. Summer fallow; 2. Wheat, with lime and dung; 3. Pease and beans; 4. Barley, with grass seeds; 5. Hay, cut green; 6. Wheat, with dung; 7. Barley; 8. Oats; 9. Summer fallow, &c.—The rotation followed in grounds chiefly employed for pasture: 1. Oats; 2. Barley or flax; 3. Oats, with grass seeds; 4. Hay; 5. Pasture.—Artificial grasses, chiefly rye-grass, and red and white clover, are cultivated to a great extent, and with abundant success. Turnips have only been introduced of late years, and as yet a smaller number of acres, in proportion to the extent of the parish, are occupied with this crop, than in the eastern parts of the county.—The seed time extends from the middle of March to the middle of May. Harvest begins in the middle of August, and commonly ends about the middle of October.

Potatoes.—No species of culture has so amply rewarded the labour bestowed on it, by the inhabitants of Cupar, as that of the potatoe. They have good reason to join with those who affirm, that the potatoe is the richest present, which the new world ever made to Europe. The produce of an acre is from 40 to 100 bolls. The average crop, on good ground, 60 bolls. The disease peculiar to this plant, known by the name of *the curl*, has not yet materially affected the crops in the neighbourhood of Cupar. The kinds commonly planted are, for the table, the *long kidney*, and the *London drapper*. For cattle, a large red potatoe, known by the name of *the Tartar*,

Tartar, and extremely prolific. The most successful farmers plant them in drills, at the distance of 50 inches from each other. They clean them chiefly with drill harrows and ploughs.

Horses, Black Cattle, &c. *—Horses are principally employed in every species of labour. The breed has been greatly improved within the last 15 years. The farmer seldom yokes a pair in his plough, or in his cart, for which he could not draw, in the market, 50 l. This district of the country, and indeed the whole of what is commonly called *the Loigh of Fife*, has long been famous for its excellent breed of black cattle †.—The instruments of husbandry, used in the parish, are all of the newest and best construction; and the farmers begin to build, at their own expence, mills for threshing out their corns.

Inclosures, Minerals, &c.—There is not an acre of common or waste ground in the parish, the whole being either planted or employed in tillage, except one large field, the property of the town, kept for the purpose of pasturing the cows belonging to the inhabitants. A considerable proportion of the grounds are inclosed. As there are inexhaustible quarries

* For the number of cattle, &c. see the Table. About 20 years ago, there were 12 or 13 flocks of sheep in the parish; for several years past, there has not been one.

† JAMES WEMYSS, Esq; of Wintham, a few years ago, sold, to an English drover, two bullocks, bred on his farm of Wemyss-hall, among the largest which the county of Fife has ever produced. They were exhibited on account of their stupendous size, during many months, in different parts of England, to the eye of public curiosity; and when killed at Smithfield, were found to be among the heaviest ever brought to that market.

quarries of excellent free-stone in the parish, the inclosures are chiefly formed by stone dykes, the expence of building which is from 30s. to 40s. per rood of 36 yards.

Rents and Mills.—The grounds, to the distance of an English mile round the town, let at an average of 3 l. per acre. Fields under sown grass, let for 6 l. per acre, sometimes as high as 8 l. There are no less than 11,000 bolls of grain annually made into meal, at the 4 different stations in the parish, where mills are erected.

Roads, &c.—Turnpike roads began to be formed in the parish of Cupar, only within these few years. The measure met, at first, with almost universal opposition from the adjacent country. The farmers, however, have already entirely changed their opinion with respect to turnpikes, they pass cheerfully at the toll-bars, and seem, in general, to be convinced of the vast importance and utility of the roads that have been formed. The turnpikes, in the neighbourhood of Cupar, are made on an excellent plan, are formed of the best materials, and contain a hard and soft, or summer and winter road.—The cross roads in the parish are, in general, exceedingly ill kept; nor is it likely, that by the Statute labour, as at present applied, they will ever be in better order. As improvements of every kind have advanced so rapidly, during the last 7 years, it must appear an unaccountable defect, that so very common, and so very useful a machine, as that of a *still-yard* for weighing hay, coals, &c. has never yet been erected in the town of Cupar, nor on any of the roads leading to it.

Wages and Prices of Provisions.—A labourer earns per day, in summer, from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. In winter, from 10 d. to 1 s.

The

The prices of provisions vary little, in the countries adjoining to Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, &c. The vicinity of these great towns did not contribute, in any great degree, to raise the price of provisions, till within the last 30 years. An increased population, and new modes of life, have of late occasioned an immense additional consumption of fish, poultry, &c.—In the Cupar market, beef, mutton, pork, and veal, sell at an average at 4 d. per lib. Dutch weight; hens, 13 d. each; geese, 3 s. each; rabbits, 6 d. per pair; pigeons, 3 d. per pair; butter, 9 d. per lib.; best cheese, 5 d.; coarse cheese, 3 d. tron weight; oat meal, 13 d. per peck; potatoes, 4½ d.; eggs, 4 d. per dozen; salmon, 5 d. per lib.—Though the price of provisions is thus high, and though there has been also a great rise on the necessary articles of leather, soap, salt, candles, &c. yet the labourer at present is better lodged, better fed and clothed, and can give a more decent education to his children, than his father, who paid only 6 d. or 7 d. for a peck of oat meal; 1½ d. for beef and mutton per lib.; who bought eggs at 1 d. per dozen; butter at 5 d. per lib.; cheese at 1½ d.; and haddocks in abundance at 1 d. or 2 d. per dozen. This improvement in the situation of the labourer is owing chiefly to these causes: 1st, The proportion of the price of his own labour, and that of his family, to the price of provisions, is more in his favour than at any preceding period. 2^{dly}, The introduction of the potatoe, which has been long in general cultivation, affords a vast additional supply of food to the labourer and his family, and enables him, at the same time, to rear pigs and poultry. 3^{dly}, He can depend on being employed during the course of the whole year, an advantage which his father, who received only 5 d. or 6 d. for his day's work, could not always command.

Character of the People.—The labourer and the mechanic are in general able, by the exertions of their industry, to make a decent livelihood for themselves and their families; they possess more foresight and economy than those of the same rank in the neighbouring kingdom. They cherish the laudable pride of not being indebted for their support to the parochial fund, or to the humanity of the charitable. They are in general contented with their humble situation; friends to that government which extends protection and security to their dwellings; and have had the good sense to resist and to despise the attempts of those, who have endeavoured to make them believe, in opposition to their own happy experience, that they are burdenned, oppressed, and wretched.

Manners.—The manners of the inhabitants of Cupar, of better rank, are, in general, correct and polite. Gentlemen of the military profession, having spent their youth in the service of their country, frequently fix their residence here, in the decline of life. Formed in that school, which has long been distinguished by the ease and politeness which it communicates, they have contributed to diffuse an elegance of manners. To this circumstance also, perhaps, it is in some measure owing, that families residing in Cupar, and enjoying only a limited and narrow income, make a decent and respectable appearance; and are enabled, by habits of attention and economy, frequently to exercise an elegant hospitality.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF CUPAR OF FIFE.

CONDITIONS AND PROFESSIONS, &c.

Principal residing heritors *	7	Masons	21
Ditto non-residing †	9	Wrights	48
Attorneys or writers	12	Smiths	24
Clerks and apprentices to		Shoemakers	35
ditto	20	Glovers	5
Medical practitioners	5	Hatters	2
Clergymen	3	Barbers	7
School-masters	3	Saddlers	5
Private teachers	4	Candle-makers	2
Mantua-makers	10	Linen-merchants	6
Milliners	6	Shop-keepers	31
House painters	3	Midwives	4
Stationers	2	Watch-makers	3
Bakers and servants	19	Excise officers	3
Butchers and ditto	16	Carriers	4
Brewers	5	Messengers	3
Tailors	29	Footmen	20
Dyers	5		

Valued

* Viz. Patrick Rigg, Esq; of Morton, James Wemyss, Esq; of Wemysshall, Henry Stark, Esq; of Teaffes, Charles Bell, Esq; of Pitbladdo, William Robertson, Esq; of Middlefield, Peter Walker, Esq; of Kingask, and John Swan, Esq; of Prestonhall.

† Viz. the Earl of Crawford, Colonel Clephane of Carlogie, James Robertson, Esq; of Balgarvie, Oliver Gourlay, Esq; of Kilmoran, George McGill, Esq; of Kemback, Charles Maitland, Esq; of Rankeillor, Henry West, Esq; of Foxtown, Miss Bell of Hillton, and Alexander Low, Esq; of Pittencrieff.

Valued rent in Scotch money	-	-	-	L. 5331
Bank offices	-	-	-	2
Tan-works	-	-	-	2
Weaver's looms	-	-	-	223
Licensed ale-houses	-	-	-	43
Ditto in the county of Fife	-	-	-	784

CATTLE, &c.

Horses	-	338	Coach	-	-	1
Cows and young cattle		722	Chaises	-	-	8
Ploughs	-	68	Pack of fox hounds			1
Carts	-	137	Ditto of harriers	-		1

NUM.

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF LILLIES-LEAF.

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH—PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK
—SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODDALE).

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM CAMPBELL, Minister.

Name, Extent, and River.

THE origin of the name is uncertain. It has been wrote *Lillies-life* and *Lillies-cliffe*.—It rises from the east, where the breadth is only half a mile, with a gradual ascent to the west, where it is a mile broad from north to south. It is broadest at the middle, being, upon a medium, 2 miles and one sixth. It is five miles and a half in length, and contains between 7000 and 8000 acres.—At the head of the parish, the river *Ale*, remarkable for the quality of its trout, divides it for a mile, and then becomes the boundary to the north and east.

Soil, Farm Rents, Cultivation, and Produce.—The soil varies, being partly clay, rich loam, and partly gravelly light sand. The crofts adjoining the village let at 35 s. and 40 s. per acre.—The rents in general, for several years past, have been rising, and are still on the increase, owing, in a great measure, to the improvements and mode of management. The outfield ground is light, part dry, and part swampy. The English plough, after the model of Small of Rosline,

is used in general. Farmers are not so fond of sowing wheat as formerly. The culture of turnips is judged of more consequence, and keeps the land in good heart. A rotation of crops, as follows, has been adopted; fallow, turnips, oats, pease, barley with grass seeds, hay, pasture for 2 years, oats, and then a fallow. Upon lighter ground, *1st*, crop oats; *2dly*, Turnips, pease, or potatoes, *3dly*, Barley; *4thly*, Hay; then oats, &c. as before. After this rotation, there is no need of a fallow.—The distance from lime is 25 miles.—There is a marl moss at the east end of the parish, and another at the west.—The manure in both is of an excellent quality. Its effects are more discernible on grass, than on land in tillage. There are other two mosses in the neighbourhood, at 4 miles distance, from which considerable quantities of marl are brought. The old maxim, “The fodder is best which carries corn on its top,” is entirely exploded. Sir John Buchanan Riddell, proprietor of a great part of the parish, and who proposes staying here, at least occasionally, is rapidly carrying on improvements. He has marl on his estate, yet the expence must be considerable. It is not to be doubted but they will turn out to good account; and his plantations add to the beauty of the place. Swift observes, “whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass to grow, upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together.” Oxen are not used in labouring

* In place of *ploughing matches*, which sometimes are attended with a considerable degree of confusion, and some disagreeable consequences among the servants, might it not answer better, if, for instance, the proprietors of ten ploughs were to collect 50s. for the land to be marled before sowing, and the whole work during the season reviewed; a premium of 1 l. 5 s. to the best upon the whole,

labouring as formerly. The moir land is kept for pasture.

Prices of Provisions and Labour.—Provisions are high priced. Butcher meat is often sold at a dearer rate than in Edinburgh; butter at 10 d. per lib. (24 oz.) a pair of fowls at 1 s. 8 d. formerly only 1 s.; cheese 6 d. per lib. formerly 3½ d.; and other articles in proportion. The manner of living is greatly changed, being much more expensive; yet the farmers are in better circumstances, and much better lodged than they were 30 years ago. The wages of a man servant are from 6 l. to 8 l. Sterling; and those of a maid servant from 3 l. 4 s. to 3 l. 15 s. per annum. A day-labourer gets 10 d. with his meat, or 1 s. 4 d. without it; a taylor, 8 d. with, or 1 s. without it; a wright, 1 s. 6 d.; a mason, 1 s. 6 d.; a man for weeding potatoes or turnips, 8 d. In harvest, a man gets 1 s. 4 d. a woman, 1 s. 2 d. For 20 years past, work of every kind has risen in expence one third. It is more than probable the rise will still be higher. The school fees alone are moderate. Some farmers have their corns threshed for 4 d. per boll, with maintainance; a ditch 3 feet deep dug, with the thorns set, at 8 d. per rood, and a double ditch at 1 s. 4 d.

Roads, Fuel, Diseases, &c.—The roads are in a bad state, but will be put in good repair, as money for the statute labour is to be exacted, as far as law allows. One great inconvenience the people labours under, is the distance from coals, which is not less than 30 and 32 miles. Some peats may be procured here, but so high priced, that coals at 15 s. the 12

cwt. whole, 15 s. to the second, and 10 s. to the third. The ploughmen would thus be attentive from first to last, and justice would be done the master.

cwt. are by far the cheapest. In the article of firing, the inhabitants must be at a greater expence than any parish in the south of Scotland. Agues, 20 years ago, were very frequent in the village, the road being almost impassable on account of putrid stagnated water. This being removed, and the road formed and finished, aguish complaints have almost totally disappeared. It is unfortunate that this corner should be so bare of trees, there being plenty of ground well adapted for large plantations, particularly of firs. The weedings would be useful as fuel; the body of the tree profitable, in a parish so remote from the sea coast; and the ground enriched by the leaves.

Population.—It is generally believed, that the population is greatly diminished, there being vestiges of considerable villages, where now there stand only one or two houses. Since the year 1760, 9 farms have been added to such as lay adjacent; and though the rent of each was not very considerable, yet the honest tacksmen cleared with the proprietor, and brought up and educated his children, who proved useful members of society. But whatever diminution may have lately taken place in the population of the parish, from these and similar causes, it is certain, that there has been an increase upon the whole, within these 40 years, as appears from the following comparative statement:

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF LILLIES-LEAR.

Number of males in the parish, at Whitsunday 1793	342
Ditto of females	288
Total number of souls	630
Ditto in 1755, as returned to Dr Webster	521
Increase	109
Families	

Families in the village	-	-	-	87
Ditto in the country	-	-	-	59
			Total	146

AGES.

Persons under 10 years of age	-	-	-	148
between 10 and 20	-	-	-	103
20 and 30	-	-	-	135
30 and 60	-	-	-	184
60 and 80	-	-	-	60
				630

CONDITIONS, PROFESSIONS, &c.

Proprietors †	-	17	Coopers	-	2
Minister	-	1	Tailors	-	7
Seceders of various denomi-	-	35	Bakers	-	2
nations	-	14	Shop-keepers	-	2
Weavers	-	14	Licensed ale-houses †	-	2
Wrights	-	13	School-master	-	1
Masons	-	9	Scholars in winter, about	50	
Smiths	-	3	Ditto in summer	36	
Annual average of births	-	-	-	-	11
marriages	-	-	-	-	3
burials	-	-	-	-	6

RENT, STOCK, &c.

Valued rent in Scotch money	-	-	-	L. 8265
Real rent in Sterling, about	-	-	-	3000
Horses	175	Swine	-	20
Black cattle	580	Ploughs	-	45
Sheep	1394			

Manufactures.

* A few of this class are bordering upon so.

† Besides these heritors, there is a considerable number of feuers.

‡ Although this village is a thorough-fare, between the western and eastern parts of the country, there is no occasion for so many ale and spirit houses.

Manufactures.—Many packs of lint, till of late, were sent from Darlington, by Newcastle, to be spun. The yarn was returned by the same conveyance. At present the spinners are employed by the manufacturers in Hawick. The quantity of cloth woven for sale is not great.

Ecclesiastical State.—This parish belonged formerly to the diocese of the Archbishop of Glasgow, who built the kirk betwixt the 9th and 10th century. There is paid to that university, the yearly sum of 5 l. 7 s. 6½ d. called the *Bishop's Coat*. The kirk was rebuilt in the year 1771, and is commodious and well seated. The Duke of Roxburgh is patron. The stipend, at the conversion of grain, is about 1000 l. Scotch, and 50 l. ditto for communion elements. The manse was built in the year 1762, very superficially and confined. An addition was made to it 15 years after, and the house is this season to get some necessary repairs. The glebe is of a tolerable good quality, measuring near 11 English acres*.

School.—The heritors, a few years ago, voluntarily raised the school-master's salary from 120 merks to 100 l. Scotch. They are contracting for a new school and school-house. His emoluments, as teacher, precentor, and session-clerk, do not exceed 17 l. *per annum*.

Poor.—The poor are supported by the interest of 105 l. Sterling sunk money, and an assessment on the land, the one half paid by the proprietor, and the other half by the tenant. The weekly collections supply such as occasionally need

* That it might be kept entire, Sir Walter Riddell, in the year 1771, bestowed half an acre of land to the then minister, upon which the manse, &c. are

need assistance. When a person is admitted a pauper, a bond is signed, conveying a right to the heritors of what effects they have. This prevents imposition. If in value the effects exceed the expenditure, the surplus is given to the nearest relations of the deceased.

Antiquities *.—In this parish lies the seat of the ancient family

* Upon inclosing the grounds of Bewliehill, the workmen came to loose earth, soft and black, and found a great number of human bones, seemingly burnt to a certain degree. The space was upwards of 20 feet diameter, being of a circular form, and seems to have been an outpost of a Roman camp, the vestiges of which are to be seen in a neighbouring parish, at 3 miles distance. The rage of conquest knows no bounds, but the Almighty brings good out of evil; for, by the invasion of the Romans, and the success attending their arms, Providence paved the way for publishing and introducing Christianity into this island. Military weapons have been found, and spears sharp on both sides; large quantities of human bones, some with ribs adhering to the back bone; heads, in some the teeth almost fresh. One body was pretty entire; contiguous to it were the remains of a horse. Frequent skirmishes had occurred in that corner of the parish, with the soldiers of Charles II. A numerous party of Presbyterians, who were marching to join their brethren at Bothwell Bridge, being attacked by some troops of dragoons, fled to Bewlie Moss for refuge; unable to extricate themselves, many perished in the mud. When the old church of *Lillies-Leaf* was taken down, in 1771, there was found, below one of the seats, a coffin containing several human heads. We may suppose that they had been cut off by friends, that they might not be fixed upon the posts of any of the neighbouring boroughs, as it was not possible to drag out the bodies without being discovered. What a blessed toleration do we now live under? And if the constitution under which we live, in the course of time, needs repairs, tender and delicate should the hand be that touches it. Our fathers told us of frequent meetings in *Lillies-Leaf* muir, for the worship of God. The devout assembled at the hazard of their lives; the place they chose was retired; and one of their number was placed on a rising ground, to give the alarm on the appearance of danger.—ALEXANDER

HOME,

family of RIDDEL, of that ilk, one of the most ancient, if not the very oldest in Scotland *.

Character and Manners.—The people in general, a very few excepted †, are sober and attentive to business, there being plenty of work for such as chuse not to be idle, or half employed. They are regular in attending the ordinances of religion, and many have made no small degree of improvement in Christian knowledge. They adhere strictly to the standards

HOME, great-grand-father of the wife of the present minister; a man eminent for his piety, and simplicity of manners, came from the Merse to join with his suffering brethren in Divine service. Under the influence of that principle which "*think-eth no evil*," he informed a gentleman, on his returning home, where he had been, who gave information to the servants of government, whereupon he was apprehended, condemned, and hanged at the Cross of Edinburgh.

* Tradition says, this family fixed itself betwixt the seventh and eighth century. A late well informed and elegant historian was of this opinion. As positive proofs, Walter Riddell of Riddell married Violet Douglas in 936. About and after that period, grants of land were made by the kings of Scotland, and by some of the Popes, particularly by Pope Alexander II. A place of worship was erected near the house of Riddell, which had a burying ground, called *Chapel Park*. When in tillage, human bones occasionally have been plowed up. This burying place was transferred to the present church-yard. Upon the outside of Riddell ayle, there is inscribed H. R. 1110.

† Previous to the rupture with America, a woman guilty of child-murder petitioned for banishment, which was granted. She denied to the father her being with child, and would not hearken to his proposals for marriage; yet, so violent was his attachment to this monster of depravity, that he accompanied her to America, in the hope she would relent, and at last give him her hand.—A well disposed woman, upwards of 70 years of age, at times subject to religious melancholy, asked of a neighbour a good book to read; *Ambrose's War with Devils* was put into her hands, the reading of which entirely deranged her mind, and led her to commit the fatal act of suicide.

standards of the Church of Scotland, and are well acquainted with her doctrines. They are generally strangers to the neglect of family worship; and wish to give their children a decent education. The school fees, for the children of such as are not in good circumstances, are paid from the weekly collections. The Seceders of different denominations are obliging in their manners; far from a narrow contracted spirit, no clergyman could wish for better neighbours.—There are two political societies a few miles distant, who call themselves the *Friends of the People*; but, though they are anxious to add to their numbers, not a single person in this parish has joined them.—The dress both of the men and the women has undergone a most surprising change, within these 40 years. Thirty-two years ago, there were only 7 hats in the church, but at present there are not as many bonnets.

NUM.

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF EDLESTOWN.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES.—SYNOD OF
LOTHIAN AND TWEEDALE).

By the Rev. Mr PATRICK ROBINSON, Minister.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE village of EDLESTOWN, from which this parish takes its name, is situated 17 miles south from Edinburgh, and 4 miles N. from Peebles, on the post road from Edinburgh.—The length of the parish, from N. to S. is 10 miles, and its greatest breadth, from E. to W. 7 miles,

Hill, Prospect, Lake, River, &c.—DUNDROIGH, or *Druid's Hill*, which is situated two miles east from the church, is 2100 feet above the level of the sea, from which, in a clear day, can be seen the Cheviot Hills, with part of Tiviotdale, Annandale, Clydesdale, Perthshire, Fifeshire, the Frith of Forth, the city of Edinburgh, and the counties of East, West, and Mid Lothians.—There is a lake about 2 miles to the N. E. of the village of Edlestown, nearly of a circular form, and about 2 miles in circumference. The only species of fish which it contains, are pikes and eels. This lake gives rise to the water of South Esk, which empties itself into the sea at Musselburgh. Edlestown Water, which passes this village, and runs into the river Tweed at Peebles, takes its rise from
various

various springs on the north and north-west boundaries of the parish, and at Cowey's Linn has a fall of 35 feet. There are no diseases peculiar to this parish. The ague is not known in it. In the year 1783, the poor were liberally supplied; and the inhabitants of the parish, during that year, were more free from sickness than usual.

Surface, Cultivation, Produce, Exports, &c.—Though the greatest part of the parish consists of hill ground, and is devoted to the pasturage of sheep and black cattle, yet every store farm, one excepted, and on which a shepherd only resides, contains as much arable land as occupies from one to three ploughs.—The crops consist of beans, sown grass, oats, pease, potatoes, and turnips. The culture of turnips and sown grass hay, becomes every year more extensive; and as it is found profitable to the farmer, as well as ornamental to the country, there is little doubt that it will soon be general.—The produce, after supplying the demands of the parish, enables the farmer to export annually from 1100 to 1200 bolls of bear; and their exports of oats and pease, taken together, may amount nearly to the same number of bolls. The gross rent of the parish is doubled within the last 20 years. All the tenants are in a thriving state, and many of them are opulent.

Prices of Provisions and Labour.—The nearest market for provisions is Peebles, which is well supplied with meat of all kinds, the prices of which are nearly the same as at Edinburgh. The wages of servants and labourers have increased lately, and have been nearly doubled within the last 20 years, which is owing, in a great measure, to the decreased population, not only of this parish, but generally throughout the country of Tweeddale. A good ploughman receives 8 guineas

near *per annum*, with victuals. If married, he has also a house and garden, with as much land as is sufficient for sowing two pecks of bear, two pecks of potatoes, and a lippy of linseed. The wages of maid servants are, in summer, from 1 l. 15 s. to 2 l. 10 s. Sterling, and, in winter, from 1 l. 5 s. to 1 l. 15 s. Sterling. Day-labourers receive from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 6 d. without victuals; and carpenters, masons, tailors, and weavers, have lately increased their wages about one third.

Population.—The number of inhabitants in this parish has varied at different times, but has greatly decreased of late, as will appear from inspecting the following table; although there is a small increase upon the whole, within these 40 years.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF EDLESTOWN.

Number of souls, in 1755, as returned to Dr

Webster	-	-	-	679	
Ditto in 1775	-	-	-	810	Increase 131
Ditto in 1793	-	-	-	710	Decrease 100

Total Increase in 38 years 31

AGES AND SEXES	Males.	Females.	Total.
Persons under 10 years of age	57	74	131
— between 10 and 20	84	62	146
— 20 and 30	54	69	123
— 30 and 40	46	39	85
— 40 and 50	36	28	64
— 50 and 60	35	26	61
— 60 and 70	32	27	59
— 70 and 80	25	12	37
— 80 and 90	2	2	4
In all	371	339	710

RELI.

RELIGION, HERITORS, &c.

Number of Seceders, of all denominations	90
—— Members of the Established Church	620
—— Proprietors - - - -	13
—— Tenants - - - -	23
—— Inhabitants in the village - -	180
—— Pensioners on the roll, from	8 to 10
—— Public house - - - -	1

STOCK.

Number of sheep - - - -	8400
—— Black cattle - - - -	620
—— Horses - - - -	193
—— Ploughs, Scotch and English -	48

LANDS AND RENTS.

Number of acres in the parish - - -	21,250
—— ditto annually under crops -	1,400
Valued rent in Scotch money	L. 3928 13 0
Real ditto in Sterling - - -	2550 0 0
Of this sum, 12 farmers pay - -	1300 0 0
—— Two pay about - - -	250 0 0
—— Other two ——— - - -	200 0 0
—— Other two ——— - - -	150 0 0
And five who have families pay -	650 0 0
Lowest yearly rent of any farm -	20 0 0
Highest ditto - - - -	250 0 0

Extract from the Register of Marriages, Baptisms, and Burials, of the Parish of Edlestown, from 1st Jan. 1742, to 1st Jan. 1792.

Entries made	Mar.	Baptisms.		Burials.		Total of		
		Males	Fem.	Males	Fem.	Mar.	Bapt.	Bur.
within the year 1742	11	5	8	14	11			
1743	9	10	11	9	8			
1744	5	6	13	11	6			
1745	8	8	5	15	11			
1746	9	5	8	14	10			
1747	13	7	13	11	12			
1748	6	14	7	12	7			
1749	7	11	10	4	4			
1750	7	12	18	1	13			
1751	10	8	10	10	12			
Total from 1st Jan. 1742, to 1st Jan. 1752	85	86	105	101	100	85	187	201
within the year 1752	7	12	7	14	5			
1753	8	14	10	6	11			
1754	10	10	9	14	10			
1755	11	13	11	21	15			
1756	4	10	11	13	24			
1757	12	8	6	9	13			
1758	9	13	10	4	5			
1759	9	11	8	13	15			
1760	6	13	13	11	11			
1761	4	9	3	8	3			
Total from 1st Jan. 1752, to 1st Jan. 1762	80	113	88	111	113	80	201	223
within the year 1762	3	11	14	6	5			
1763	5	9	9	13	15			
1764	8	9	7	13	9			
1765	8	10	14	6	15			
1766	7	14	4	8	6			
1767	8	9	4	7	13			
1768	10	4	10	10	9			
1769	4	14	8	10	9			
1770	6	4	8	6	10			
1771	9	10	9	13	8			
Total from 1st Jan. 1762, to 1st Jan. 1772	68	94	87	92	99	68	181	191
Carried over						233	571	615

Extract from the Register of Marriages, Baptisms, and Burials, of the Parish of Edlestown, from 1st Jan. 1742, to 1st Jan. 1792.

Entries made	Mar.	Baptisms.		Burials.		Total of		
		Males	Fem.	Males	Fem.	Mar.	Bapt.	Bur.
Brought forward						233	571	615
within the year 1772	11	4	11	5	4			
1773	4	9	12	11	12			
1774	7	10	9	10	19			
1775	3	8	8	7	10			
1776	7	9	4	4	7			
1777	5	10	6	13	3			
1778	9	11	6	8	3			
1779	6	6	5	10	9			
1780	7	7	7	11	9			
1781	7	10	8	10	8			
Total from 1st Jan. 1772, to 1st Jan. 1782	66	84	78	89	84	66	162	173
within the year 1782	7	11	10	10	11			
1783	3	11	12	11	5			
1784	4	7	8	9	8			
1785	5	8	8	8	5			
1786	3	10	7	8	6			
1787	6	10	4	5	2			
1788	7	9	5	6	8			
1789	3	11	5	13	9			
1790	3	6	5	4	4			
1791	8	3	9	4	7			
Total from 1st Jan. 1782, to 1st Jan. 1792	51	86	73	78	65	51	159	143
Total number of entries for 50 years						350	892	931
The number of those buried here, who were not inhabitants of the parish, from 1st Jan. 1772, to 1st Jan. 1782, is 57								
And from 1st Jan. 1782, to ditto 1792								
Which make in all, during the last 20 years								
								1034

Causes of Depopulation.—The above extract cannot ascertain the number of marriages which have actually taken place within the parish, as proclamation of banns is made when only one of the parties resides in it; but the register of baptisms applies strictly to the state of the parish, from which it appears, that its population has decreased gradually since the year 1762, which may be accounted for from the following causes: First, 14 cottages, formerly occupied by married servants, have been allowed to fall into disrepair. 2^{dly}, Twelve of the farmers are bachelors. 3^{dly}, Two of those who are married have no children. 4^{thly}, Other two do not reside. 5^{thly}, Two are widowers. 6^{thly}, Of the 13 heritors, 8 are non-resident, in which number are included all the great landholders; and, lastly, of the remaining 5 who are residents, only one is married, whose landed property does not exceed 37 l. Sterling *per annum*. It is therefore presumable, that some of the above causes of the depopulation of this parish may not be permanent; and that at some future period, it may be restored nearly to the population of the year 1775.

Horses and Black Cattle.—All the above mentioned stock of horses, black cattle, and sheep, are reared within the parish. The horses are of the same breed with those used for draught all over the south of Scotland. A few horses are occasionally bred for sale, and bring from 10 to 20 guineas, according to their age or figure. Many black cattle are sold annually, some in milk, and some lean to graziers and feeders; but more generally, since the introduction of turnip husbandry, they are sold fat to the butcher in February and March. Many of them are sold at the fair, which is held annually for that purpose, on the 25th of September. The average weight of cows bred here, is 30 stone, and of full aged bullocks,

locks, 40 stone; but some of both kinds considerably exceed these weights.

Sheep and Wool.—The sheep are all of the Tweeddale breed. The store-masters sell their draught ewes with lamb in April, at from 10 l. to 11 l. Sterling per score. Fat lambs are sold from the 1st of July to the 25th of September, and bring, at an average, 6 l. the score. Wether and ewe hogs are sold in June, the former from 8 l. to 10 l. the score, and the latter from 6 l. to 8 l. per ditto; but the best of the ewe hogs are reserved as stock. Ewes, which have not had lambs, are sold to the butcher in July and August, at from 11 s. to 13 s. each; and old ewes, which have suckled lambs, bring from 9 l. to 10 l. the score, in November and December. The *old* ewes weigh, at an average, 10 lib. Dutch; per quarter and the old ewes 8 lib. per ditto, and carry from 3 lib. to 5 lib. tron of tallow. The sheep are all smeared with tar and butter in November. They are shorn in June and July; and the wool is sold from 5 s. to 7 s. per stone tron, according to its quality and cleanness.

Church, School, and Poor.—The church is supposed to be above 200 years old. Some of the seats in it bear date 1600. The money stipend, including 100 merks for communion elements, is 66 l. 13 s. 4 d. Sterling, with 53 bolls 1 firiot 1 peck 2 lippies of meal, and 21 bolls 1 firiot 1 peck and 2 lippies of bear. Lord Elbank is patron.—The school-master's salary is 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling, besides 16 s. 8 d. as session-clerk, and 1 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling, as collector of the poor's rate, which was established here in 1752.—The annual assessment on the heritors and tenants, by equal proportions, for 20 years past, has been only 5 l. Sterling. The heritors and the minister have a meeting on the first Monday of May,
and

and another on the first Monday of November annually, for fixing the quantum of the poor's rates, admitting pensioners, and granting them annuities, according to their necessities. There have been no beggars in the parish since the establishment of a poor's rate. The pensioners on the heritor's list are all house-holders, and receive from 2 L. to 3 L. Sterling *per annum*. They have a fund of 325 l. Sterling at interest, which is annually increasing; and it is probable, that, a few years hence, it will not be necessary to continue the parochial assessment. The one half of the weekly collections in the church, after paying the salaries of the session-clerk and kirk-officer, is appropriated to the supply of the poor who are not enrolled.

Character and Antiquities.—The inhabitants of this parish are generally economical, industrious, and regular in their attendance on the ordinances of religion.—There are no remains of antiquity in the parish, excepting the vestiges of two circular encampments, vulgarly called *rings*.

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF BLAIR-GOWRIE.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.—PRESBYTERY OF MEIGLE.—
SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES JOHNSTON, Minister.

Origin of the Name.

THE name of the parish is BLAIR-GOWRIE, so called from the village near which the church stands. In old papers it is sometimes written *Blair-in-Gowrie*. Various etymologies and interpretations of it have been suggested. Like many other names of places in the parish, it is probably Gaelic. In that language *Blaar* is said to be descriptive of a place where muir and mofs abound. Thus *Ardblair* is the height in the muir or mofs. The muir of Blair-Gowrie, abounding with mofs, is in the near neighbourhood of the village. *The Walthorn of Blair*, *the Lochend of Blair*, *Little Blair*, and *Ardblair*, are names of places on the borders of the muir.

Extent, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.—The extent of it is considerable, being about 11 English miles long from S. to N. and in some places not less than 8 miles broad; but, (as may be seen from Mr Stobie's map of Perthshire), the figure is irregular, being frequently intersected by the parishes of Kinloch, Bendochy, and Rattray. The connected part of it
is

is only about 9 miles long, and from one to two miles broad. The parish is divided into two districts by a branch of the Grampian mountains, which is the northern boundary of this part of the beautiful valley of Strathmore. The southern district, which lies in the strath, is about 4 miles long, and from one to two miles broad. In general it is flat. The northern district, which includes the detached parts of the parish, is high ground, very uneven in the surface. The arable land in it is in general sloping, and, in many places, very steep. The hills are mostly covered with heath. Some of them may be about 600 feet above the level of the sea. The soil in both districts, as may be supposed, is various. Along the side of the Illa, it is a deep rich loam, free from stones. Immediately north from that, it is a stiff loam upon a till bottom, wet and spouty. This last is a prevailing soil in the parish, and also a light dry earth full of stones, on a gravel bottom. In many places there is a thin stratum of a light black earth, either upon gravel or cold till. There are considerable tracts of hill, moor and moss, and more than 1000 acres are covered with wood. Not above a third part of the parish consists of arable ground.

Climate and Diseases.—The climate varies in different parts of the parish. It is often mild and temperate in the southern district, while it is sharp and cold in the northern. A remarkable difference is felt, on leaving the former to go to the latter. In both, however, the air on the whole is very salubrious, and the inhabitants are not subject to any peculiar distempers. Formerly, indeed, the lower part of the parish was much distressed with the ague, but since some of the lakes have been drained, that disease has totally disappeared. The rheumatism is the most common disorder, particularly among the poorer class of the people, when well advanced

in life. Inoculation for the small-pox is now a good deal practised, and is almost always successful in preventing the fatal effects of that disease. There are no instances of extraordinary longevity in the parish at present, yet there are many persons living and vigorous, who are above 70, and some above 80. There is only one person above 90. It may be here mentioned, that the lady of a considerable proprietor in the parish died not long ago, who saw in her own house eighty-four returns of Christmas. The mansion-house is close adjoining to several lakes.

Rivers, Cascades, Fish, Birds, Scenery, &c.—The *Isle*, which washes the northern part of this parish, is the most considerable of our rivers. It has been frequently mentioned in former reports. As its banks are low in this parish, it often suddenly overflows them, and occasions considerable loss and disappointment to the husbandmen. This was remarkably the case in harvest 1789.—The next in size is the *Erchie*, which, from its rapidity, has acquired the appellation of the *Iresful Erchie*. It is formed by the junction of the *Ardle* and the *Black-Water*. It runs along the east side of the parish for about 9 miles. Its channel in general is very rocky and uneven, and it often varies in its depth and breadth. The banks in many places are so low, that it frequently overflows them, and does considerable damage, especially in harvest. In other parts they rise to a great height, are very rugged, and often covered with wood. About two miles north from the village of Blair-Gowrie, they rise at least 200 feet above the bed of the river; and on the west side are formed, for about 700 feet in length, and 220 feet in height, of perpendicular rock, as smooth as if formed by the tool of the workman. The place where this phenomenon is to be seen is called *Craig-lisch*, where the traveller may be furnished with one of the

most romantic scenes in North Britain. Here hawks nestle, and their young ones have been frequently carried away by falconers from different parts of the kingdom. Here, also, the natural philosopher and botanist may find ample amusement. Two miles farther down this river is the *Keith*, a natural cascade, considerably improved by art. It is so constructed that the salmon, which repair in great numbers to it, cannot get over it, unless when the river is very much swelled. The manner of fishing here is probably peculiar to this place. The fishers during the day dig considerable quantities of clay, and wheel it to the river side immediately above the fall. About sun-set the clay is turned into mortar, and hurled into the water. The fishers then ply their nets at different stations below, while the water continues muddy. This is repeated two or three times in the space of a few hours. It is a kind of pot net, fastened to a long pole, that is used here. The river is very narrow, confined by rocks composed of sand and small stones. The scenery, especially on the west side, is very romantic and beautiful. Many gentlemen from all quarters repair to this river for amusement. From the Keith for about two miles down the river, there is the best rod fishing to be found in Scotland, especially for salmon. The fishing continues from the beginning of April to the 26th of August. The fishing with the pot net is confined to a small part of the river, near the Keith. When the water is very small, which is often the case in summer, the fish are caught in great numbers, in the different pools, with a common net *. They are neither so large nor so rich as those of the Tay. The fishing on this side of the river was long

* Formerly the fish were almost all bought up for the London market, at 6 d. the lib. till Whit Sunday, and at 4 d. during the rest of the season. Last year they were mostly sold in the neighbourhood.

long let at 100 merks; it now gives 30 l. Sterling. Plenty of trouts are found in the Ericht. The Ardlie also washes this parish for a short way on the north. Sometimes salmon are caught in it, and it abounds with trouts. Like the Isla and the Ericht, it frequently overflows its banks. There are two burns, or rivulets, remarkable only for their excellent trouts, and for driving some corn and lint mills.

Lakes, Islands, &c.—The parish abounds with lakes of different sizes. Till lately there were more, but some have been drained, and now supply the neighbourhood with peats and marl *. In the lakes which still remain, great quantities of pikes and perches are caught, partly with the rod, and partly with nets. They are much frequented by wild fowls of different kinds. In the middle of one of them are the remains of an old building on a small island in it, in which tradition says treasures were concealed in perilous times. A district in this county is said to have acquired the appellation of *Storemount* from this circumstance. Curling is an exercise at which the inhabitants of this district excel.

Minerals and Mineral Springs.—There is no lime-stone in the parish, neither is it well supplied with free-stone, though there are two quarries of this kind. Some whin-stone quarries have been wrought, and muir-stone is found in great plenty. There is one chalybeate spring in the Cloves of Mawes, which was formerly much resorted to by persons in its neighbourhood. It has been used, it is said, with success in scorbutic disorders. There are appearances of several
more

* In digging marl out of one of these, the skeleton of a large animal was uncovered, at least 12 feet below the surface. The horns resemble those of a deer, and are of a very large size.

more springs of the same kind in different places of the parish.

Woods.—There are two oak woods in the parish; one along the western bank of the Erich, which is now cutting. This cutting fold at 320 l. There is a smaller wood of the same kind on the property of Ardblair, and there are several birch woods in the head of the parish. There are only a few ash, elm, and plane trees *. There are at least 900 acres planted partly with larch, and partly with firs. It is to be regretted, that similar plantations have not been made, on the moorish grounds in the northern district. There are vast tracts of muir, which turn to little account in their present state. Shelter is much needed where they abound. The mosses, the greatest sources of fuel, are nearly exhausted, and every year become more difficult of access. Coal is at a very considerable distance, and there is no water carriage,

Population.—No dependence can be had on the parish register, for the number or proportion of births and burials. This may in some measure be accounted for, from the great influx of emigrants from other parishes, especially from the Highlands, who settle here as servants, &c. By comparing the report made to Dr Webster, however, with the result of an accurate enumeration made in October, November, and December 1793, we are enabled to state the exact increase, which is but small in proportion to the influx of strangers within these 40 years.

STATIS-

* In the year 1774, the muir of Blair-Gowrie, then a common of 500 acres, was divided, and most of it, in 1775, was planted with Scotch firs; the rest of it has been gradually planted since that time, partly with larch, and partly with Scotch firs.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF BLAIR-GOWRIE.

	<i>Families.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Fem.</i>	<i>Souls.</i>
Resident in the country	261	590	636	1226
in the village	133	183	242	425
In all	393	773	878	1651
Majority of females			105	
Number of souls in 1755				1596
				Increase 55

CONDITIONS AND PROFESSIONS.

Proprietors	22	Masons	13
Clergyman	1	Flax-dressers	8
Surgeon	1	Lint-millers	7
Weavers	100	Corn ditto	7
Tailors	10	Dyer	1
Carpenters	14	Carriers to Perth and Dun-	
Wheel wrights	3	dee	4
Cooper	1	Butchers	3
Shoe-makers	8	Baker	1
Shop-keepers	18	Ale and spirit sellers	23
Smiths	7		

RELIGIOUS PERSUASIONS, BIRTHS, &c.

Members of the Established Church	1507	Roman Catholics	2
Presbytery of Relief	30	Annual average of births for 7 years past	36
Antiburgher Seceders	100	Ditto of deaths for ditto	27
Episcopalians	12		

STOCK, RENT, &c.

Ploughs	111	Sheep	1220
Pairs of cart wheels	233	Valued rent in Scotch money	£ 55 15 14 0 1/2
Horses	311		
Black Cattle	1269		

Manufactures,

Manufactures, Mills, &c.—The principal branches of manufacture carried on in the parish are spinning and weaving. The women spin with both hands.—Besides the flax raised in the parish, considerable quantities of foreign flax are spun; and the yarn is either wove in the parish and neighbourhood, or sent to Dundee. Considerable quantities of household cloth are wove here, and about 50,000 yards of yard-wides, part of which is bleached in the neighbouring parish of Rat-tray; but a greater proportion is sold in the village of Blair-Gowrie, and sent green to London. There are 7 meal mills, 2 lint mills, and 1 fulling mill in the parish. The rate of mill-toll paid at the meal mills, is, in general, about a twelfth part of what is ground.

Cattle.—A good number of horses are reared in the parish. They are of very different sizes and value. A considerable proportion of them are very good draught horses, but a still greater proportion are small and ill kept. The former kind are worth from 15 l. to 25 l. each; the latter, from 8 l. to 12 l. Many black cattle are also reared in the parish. Those in the northern district are very small, but they are considerably larger in the other. Great numbers are sold out of the parish, when 3 or 4 years old, particularly of the stots. The stock of sheep is much diminished. They are mostly of the white-faced kind, of a very small size, and are sold at from 6 s. to 9 s. a-piece. Their wool sells at about 14 s. per stone. From 8 to 10 fleeces go to a stone. Too little attention is paid to this valuable animal in this parish.

Prices of Provisions and Labour.—A boll of oat meal, weighing 8 stones, sells, at an average, at from 14 s. 8 d. to 16 s.; a boll of wheat at 20 s.; barley at 15 s.; oats at 13 s.; and pease at 13 s. 4 d. Beef, mutton, and pork, are sold at from
3 d.

3 d. to 4 d. per lib. Dutch weight. Little good veal is fold in the parish. A hen sells at from 10 d. to 1 s.; a chicken at 4 d.; eggs at 3 d. per dozen; butter from 8 d. to 9 d. per lib.; and cheese according to its quality and age. A day-labourer receives, during three months in the year, 6 d. per day, and 8 d. during the other months, with his maintenance. Maçons and wrights, when they furnish their own provisions, receive 1 s. 8 d. A good plough-man receives from 8 l. to 10 l.; a maid-servant 3 l. with the crop of 2 lippies of linseed sown in her master's ground, or an equivalent for it, if he be not a farmer.

Ecclesiastical State, Schools, &c.—The stipend, as fixed by a decret of the Court of Teinds, in 1791, is 5 chalders of grain, two thirds meal and one third bear, with 45 l. Sterling of money, and 5 l. for communion elements. The glebe contains $9\frac{1}{2}$ acres, of which $4\frac{1}{2}$ are good soil; the other 5, lately obtained in lieu of grass ground, are of an inferior quality, and at a considerable distance from the manse. The right of patronage is vested in Colonel Allan Macpherson of Blair-Gowrie, and Colonel William Lindsay of Spynie, in consequence of his marriage with one of the co-heiresses of Ardblair.—The church stands on high ground, about 200 yards north from the village of Blair-Gowrie, having a deep den, planted with different kinds of trees, immediately behind it. It was built in 1767, and is a plain substantial edifice, at present in good repair, but cold in winter. It would be much improved with being ceiled, and having porches at the doors, which are in the ends of it. The manse and a set of offices were built in 1771; but the offices were so ill executed, that, after the present incumbent was settled, it was found more expedient to rebuild than repair the greater part of them, which was accordingly done. Both manse and
offices

offices are now in good order, as are also the school and school-house. There is one established school in the parish, in which reading English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and some branches of mathematics are taught. From 30 to 50 scholars attend, according to the season of the year. The present teacher, who has long taught successfully, lately obtained a small augmentation of salary; but even with this addition, it is only 200 marks. The school fees are, per quarter, 1 s. for reading English; 1 s. 6 d. for writing, arithmetic, and Latin. The whole emoluments, exclusive of a free house, do not exceed 22 l. a year, a reward by no means adequate to the abilities and application of so important an office. There is one charity school occasionally taught in the head of the parish. In the winter season, there are two or three private schools kept up by the tenants, in corners remote from the parochial school.

Poor.—There are no begging poor belonging to the parish. For many years past, the average number on the poor's roll has been 14. The heritors and kirk-session meet twice a year to settle the roll. From 2 s. to 5 s. are given to each monthly, according to their respective circumstances. They also receive occasional donations, especially in winter. Occasional charities are likewise given to individuals, and families not on the roll, which is attended with good effects, and often prevents them from coming on it. The fund for the support of the poor arises from the interest of a small stock, from the collections at the church doors, from the dues of the mort-cloths, and from the rent of the seats in the galleries of the church, amounting in all to about 35 l. Sterling. The sum expended has not varied very much for these 16 years past, except in 1783, when it was much greater, than in any other year of the period mentioned. The members of the kirk-session are very careful

careful in guarding, on the one hand, against imposition, and, on the other, that no necessitous person be neglected*. Though there are no begging poor belonging to the parish, yet the parishioners are much oppressed with beggars and vagrants from other districts, many of whom are very worthless.

Village and Markets, &c.—The village of Blair-Gowrie is pleasantly situated on the north side of Strathmore, almost close upon the river Eriocht. It was made a borough of barony, by a charter from Charles I. in 1634. The whole of it belongs, in property or superiority, to Colonel Allan M'Pherson, who is proprietor of about a fourth part of the parish. The situation of the village is very healthy, and it is well supplied with water.—There are 3 fairs held in it annually, and some attempts have been made to have a weekly market in it, but with little success. The village is well supplied with butcher meat and other articles. It has increased very much within these few years. As it is situated on a military road, any of the inhabitants may retail ale and spirits, on paying 1 s. annually. There are no less than 19 dram-shops in it, which must be attended with bad consequences to the morals of the people.

Brack field, Cloth, Stamp office, &c.—There is a bleach-field in the parish of Rattray, about a mile from Blair-Gowrie. The cloth is whitened as it is sent from different quarters. A-

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bout

* In 1782, the harvest was late, and the crop was much injured. In 1783, the meal was scarce and high-priced. The kirk-session employed the poor's stock in purchasing meal at a distance, which was sold at prime cost. A small proportion of the barley meal, voted by Parliament for the relief of the Highlands, was sent to this parish. Many of the heritors provided good seed corn for their tenants, where it was necessary.

bout 50,000 may be the average number of yards annually wove in the parish. The cloth sells at about 8½ d. per yard. Considerable quantities of household cloth, and some Heffian stuffs are also wove in the district.—There was formerly a stamp-office for stamping cloth in the village. This was discontinued for some years, but was again established in 1785. The following abstract was taken from the books, containing the number of yards stamped for the last 8 years; and refers not only to the cloth wove in the parish of Blair-Gowrie, but also to what comes from the neighbouring parishes, as well as to what is whitened at the bleach-field.

<i>Anno.</i>		<i>Num. of Yards.</i>	<i>Anno.</i>		<i>Num. of Yards.</i>
1785	—	17,197		Brought over	492,102
1786	—	50,380	1790	—	190,682
1787	—	128,559	1791	—	220,371
1788	—	130,602	1792	—	252,485
1789	—	165,364			
				Total	1,155,640
	Carried over	492,102			

State of Property, Inclosures, &c.—There are 22 heritors, and a great many feuers in the village of Blair-Gowrie. Only one of the greater heritors resides in the parish. Many of them are possessed of considerable estates in other parishes. Most of the smaller proprietors reside upon, and farm part of their own property. The real rent cannot, therefore, be easily ascertained. Good ground, in farms, gives from 15 s. to 21 s. and some of it 30 s. per acre. The land around the village lets at from 30 s. to 43 s. The number of acres in the parish is not known, as part of it has not been measured. Some progress has been made in inclosing, within these 6 years, but still at least three fourths of the parish lie open, and very few farms have been subdivided. The inclosures are either
stone

stone dykes, or hedge and ditch. Probably sufficient attention is not paid to this last kind of fence; the young thorns should be more cherished and better defended, in order to secure good fences. One property in the northern district is almost completely inclosed and subdivided, and lets, from year to year, considerably higher for pasture than it would do upon an ordinary lease for tillage. About 4 years ago, above a fourth part of the parish was sold at 36 years purchase, and is likely to turn out a good bargain. The rent of land continues to rise in this parish.

Agriculture, Produce, &c.—The ploughs are of the Scotch make, considerably improved. Within these 12 years, there has been a very considerable alteration in the mode of plowing. In general the plough is now drawn by two horses, and driven by the man who holds it. In breaking up old ley, or in giving the first plowing to stiff ground, 3 horses are sometimes yoked; and, in one or two corners, the plough is drawn by 4 horses yoked a-breast, and driven by a man who holds the horses by the halters, and walks backwards. In general the farmers in the northern district are very industrious; but they are only emerging out of the old method of culture. The distinction of *out-field* and *in field* still takes place in some degree. Turnips and sown grass are only beginning to find their way into this district. The want of inclosures, and *winter herding*, are great obstacles to their progress, particularly in those corners where sheep are kept. The tenantry here labour under many disadvantages. Much of their time in summer is consumed in procuring fuel; they are far from manure; the ground lies open, is full of baulks and large stones, and in some places it is very wet and spouty. This last circumstance, with the coldness of the climate, many plead as an apology, for not having more of their farms in
sown

sown grafs for summer feeding and hay. They allow that white clover and rye grafs fucceed with them, but complain that the roots of the red clover are frequently thrown out in fpring. Inclofing, draining, and clearing the ground of ftones, are much wanted in this diftrict.—The crops raifed in it are barley, oats, potatoes, a fmall proportion of peafe, turnips, fown grafs, and fome flax. All the flax raifed in the parifh is fpun in it; and the rents of many of the fmall farms are moftly paid, with the money got for the yarn, fpun in the winter months.

Improvements, Farm Rents, &c.—Greater progrefs in improvement has been made in the fouthern diftrict, than in the other. Here the new method of hufbandry is more generally praftifed, and excellent crops are raifed of wheat, peafe, barley, oats, potatoes, turnips, grafs, and alfo fome flax. But even here fufficient attention is not paid to a proper rotation of cropping. The following rotations are moft univerfally obferved. Where wheat is raifed, the rotation is this; after grafs comes oats, then fummer fallowing; then wheat, peafe, barley, oats with grafs feeds. The dung is given to the wheat. In the divifion for peafe, potatoes and turnips are raifed along with the peafe, and get a little dung. Sometimes the grafs is kept 2 or 3 years, but more frequently only one year. On the farms where wheat is not fown, the following rotation takes place; After 3 crops of grafs, the ground is broken up for oats, of which one crop is taken. The oats are followed with turnips, potatoes, and peafe in one divifion. Barley, with grafs feeds, fucceeds the green crop. The dung is given to the green crop. In the divifion for oats, a proportion of flax is fown, and not unfrequently a crop both of barley and oats is taken after the green crop, and the grafs feeds in that cafe are fown with the

the oats. The farms in both districts are of different sizes, from 10 l. to 130 l. Part of the parish is let in small possessions of a few acres to trades people, and this is one reason for the great number of ploughs and horses; as there are often a plough and two horses, where the possession does not exceed twelve acres. Where the farmer does not carry on his work with the assistance of his children, it is generally done by servants who live in the family, except in harvest, for which additional assistance is secured some months before. Sometimes a house, kail-yard, and an acre of land, are given to trades people, who pay their rent by assisting in harvest, and at turnip cleaning. Oats are sown from the middle of March to the middle of April; then pease and lint-seed. Bear is sown in May, and turnips in June. The harvest generally begins in the end of August: It is somewhat later in the northern district. The parish more than supplies itself with grain; considerable quantities of it, particularly of barley, are sold out of it.

Roads and Bridges.—The great road, from Coupar of Angus to Fort George, passes through this parish. It was made at the expence of Government, and is kept in good repair by the statute labour of the country, with the occasional assistance of military parties. It is regretted, that a different direction was not given it, after it reached Blair-Gowrie. Had it been made to cross the Erich at Blair-Gowrie, run along the east side of that river, re-cross it near Craig-hall, and keep lower down in its course through Mawes, the high ground, over which it now passes, would have been avoided, and the traveller would have been saved many a long and steep ascent. The great road from Dunkeld to Kirriemuir also passes through the parish, and cuts the military road at right angles: It is kept in tolerable repair. The cross roads are many. Till lately, the statute labour was exacted in kind;

kind; it is now commuted, at the rate of from 8s. to 12s. for every plough-gate, or 10s. for every 100l. Scotch of valued rent. There are no turnpikes. Besides many small arches over small streams, there are 4 bridges, two on the military road, one over the Black-Water, and one over the Ericht. The two last were built by subscription.

Gentlemen's Seats.—NEWTON-HOUSE, once the seat of the proprietors of the Barony of Blair-Gowrie, and lately possessed by the present proprietor, is an old building, something in the stile of a castle*. It stands about the middle of the south slope of the range of high ground, which bounds Strathmore on the north, and has a most commanding view, not only of Strathmore, but also of part of different counties. —About half a mile farther west, lies the mansion-house of the old family of the Blairs of Ardblair. That family were long the proprietors of a most extensive property in the parish, and are still possessed of a fifth part of it. The mansion-house seems evidently to have been surrounded with water on three sides. The lake has been drained, and a considerable treasure of moss and marl has been thus discovered. —The proprietor of Blair-Gowrie and Mawes lately built a most substantial and commodious house, with offices, about a quarter of a mile south from the village of Blair-Gowrie, on a beautiful flat near the banks of the Ericht. When the planting has got up, it will be a most delightful habitation.

Eminent Men.—GEORGE DRUMMOND, Esq; who long distinguished himself as a public-spirited magistrate in Edinburgh, who was 5 or 6 times elected Lord Provost of that metro-

* This house was rebuilt on the foundation of the old house, said to be burnt down by Oliver Cromwell. Many gentlemen were miraculously saved in a vault of the old house, while it was burnt down.

metropolis, and who had so active a hand in promoting the erection of the Royal Infirmary, Royal Exchange, &c. was born in Newton-House, in this parish.

Antiquities.—There are the remains of several Druidical temples in the parish. Immediately behind the manse there is a circular mound, or mote-hill, where, it is said, Earl Gowrie held his regality courts. It consists of strata of earth and gravel, and is surrounded on the top with a dyke of the same materials. There are some large cairns *. Besides these, there are many smaller tumuli running through the parish in different directions, from an encampment in the neighbouring parish of Kinloch †.

Disadvantages.—The time consumed in providing seed corn and turf, and in bringing coals from Perth and Dundee, is a great bar to improvement. The distance from these towns is a great disadvantage. This will, in some measure, be removed by the proposed bridge over the Isla, near its junction with the Tay, and the road leading from the bridge to Perth, which will shorten the distance from this parish to that town about 4 miles. The tenants are beginning to bring lime from Perth; they will do it more easily, when the road is made and the bridge built. Converting into money the services performed by the tenants, inclosing and subdividing their farms, and making plantations of larches and Scotch
firs

* One of these was lately laid open, and a small stone coffin was found in the bottom of it.

† An opinion is entertained by many gentlemen, that the battle between Agricola and Galgacus was fought in the Storemount, and that the Caledonians, when forced to give way, fled in disorder. Many of them were killed in their flight through this parish. This opinion seems well founded, and is probably well supported, by those who are more concerned to defend it.

firs in the hilly and moorish grounds, would doubtless tend much to the cultivation and improvement of this country.

Character, &c.—The inhabitants of this parish are, in general, sober, industrious, attentive to their respective callings, and exemplarily regular in their attendance on divine ordinances. They are charitably disposed, and seem contented with their condition. They enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the benefits and comforts of society. Their houses, dress, and manner of living, are considerably improved.

NUM-

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF CARDROSS.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF DUMBARTON—SYNOD
OF GLASGOW AND AYR.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER M'AUlAY, Minister.

Situation, Extent, Rivers, Surface, and Soil.

CARDROSS is washed on the east border by the river Leven, and on the south by the Frith of Clyde. Its length, from Dumbarton Bridge to its boundary with the parish of Row, is about 7 miles; its breadth, from the conflux of the Leven and Clyde to its junction with the parish of Bonhill, is 3 miles. The situation of the parish is peculiarly beautiful: The Clyde runs for 7 miles along its coast, and, being partly opposite to the flourishing towns of Port-Glasgow and Greenock, it commands a prospect of the whole shipping, that great source of industry and wealth to the western part of Scotland. The ground along the Frith has a gradual ascent from the shore, for upwards of two miles, till it terminates in a ridge of hills, which separate it from the lands in the neighbourhood of Leven and Loch-Lomond. The soil contiguous to the shore is of a light gravelly nature; but, at a short distance, it contains a considerable mixture of clay. The lands adjacent to the Leven partake something of the nature of carse.

Agriculture.—Farming has not yet made that progress, which, from the advantageous situation of the parish, might have been expected. It has, however, for these 10 years past, been making rapid advances. In order to promote this, the proprietors have contributed much. Besides their own example, which seldom fails to produce in the end the best effects, they have inclosed almost the whole grounds, and laid them out, in many places, in such divisions and subdivisions, as are best suited to their respective farms. Farmers, and, indeed, men of every description, overcome with difficulty prejudices which they have early imbibed. These prejudices operate as a second nature, and, for a long time, bid defiance to the soundest arguments. It is a practice in this parish with many, of never beginning to plough till the 10th day of March. However inviting the season may be prior to this period, it matters nothing; they adhere to the custom of their fathers. To begin sooner, it is thought, would prove detrimental to the soil, and injurious to the ensuing crop. This late plowing occasions a late seed-time, and of course a late harvest, a circumstance which is, for the most part, accompanied with many disadvantages. This prejudice, however, is beginning gradually to lose its influence, and in a short time, it is hoped, it will be effectually removed.

Produce.—The common produce of the parish is oats and bear; and, of late, where the soil is of a stronger quality, considerable crops of wheat, pease, and beans are raised. Potatoes are every where cultivated. The farmers, within these few years, have begun to see the advantage of green crops; accordingly a number of fields are laid down in clover and ryegrass, but the culture of turnips is only in its infancy.

Manure.

Manure.—There is plenty of lime-stone on the lands of Camis-Eltan, the property of the family of Colgrain: Large quantities are regularly burnt, with which the neighbourhood is supplied. The expence of burning is considerable, as the coal is brought by water from Glasgow, at the rate of between 5 s. and 6 s. the 12 cwt. On the shore there is a good deal of sea ware driven in, during the winter and spring, which is carefully collected, and when laid upon lee ground proves an excellent manure. Besides this, which is called *blown ware*, large quantities of it are cut every third year. This, adhering to the stones and rocks within water-mark, grows in three years to a considerable length, and contains a greater abundance of those salts and juices which promote vegetation. As Cardross lies opposite to Port-Glasgow and Greenock, and as the Frith is only from 2 to 4 miles in breadth, there is an easy access by water to these towns. In consequence of this, it has become an object of great importance to the farmer to import from them street dung; and, although this is done at great expence, each full cart, including every charge, amounting at least to 2 s. Sterling, yet the returns amply compensate the whole trouble and outlay.

Draining, &c.—Few of the farmers in this parish are possessed of a capital, sufficient for carrying on extensive improvements. They with difficulty stock their farms, which are rented in general from 20 l. to 50 l. Sterling. They embrace the readiest methods in their power, of raising articles to pay their rents, and cannot afford to wait those distant, though sure returns, with which the improving farmer must lay his account. Before this parish can be improved, a large capital must be employed in draining. The climate, like that of every other parish near the mouth of the Clyde, is wet. In consequence of the heavy, and almost incessant rains,

which

which fall in the harvest and winter months, the lands are for a long time drenched in water, and, of course, rendered much less valuable both to the proprietor and tenant. Nothing but draining can remove this inconvenience, and facilitate improvement; and as the proprietors are chiefly interested in this, their exertions, it is hoped, will every day be more and more employed to promote so important an end.

Cattle.—Formerly almost every farmer kept a few sheep; but now, excepting on three farms, this practice is entirely given over. Too little attention, in general, is given to the breed of milk cows. It is also a practice too much followed, to overstock the ground; in consequence of which, the growth of the cows is injured, and the produce of the dairy diminished. The breed of horses is greatly improved. Their price, in the Glasgow market, is from 15 l. to 30 l. Sterling.

Farm Houses.—It must afford great pleasure to the traveller to observe the neat farm houses, which are interspersed through this country. In this parish they are every year increasing in number, a circumstance which does no small credit to the proprietors. Sir ARCHIBALD EDMONSTON of Duntreath, Bart. member of Parliament for Dunbartonshire, in this, and, indeed, in every other parish where his extensive property lies, has furnished an example, which, it is hoped, will soon be generally followed. His tenants are all well lodged, and, comparatively speaking, elegantly. Instead of the old low-built and confined houses, which their fathers inhabited, Sir Archibald has given them houses and offices suited to their respective farms, upon a plan, which conveys an idea of neatness and improvement that is highly pleasing.

Woods and Fuel.—The natural wood is considerable; it will bring, at a cutting, betwixt 2000 l. and 3000 l. Sterling. Besides this, there are nearly 200 acres planted with Scotch firs, larches, &c. These plantations are all succeeding well, and being laid out with judgment and taste, give an appearance of improvement to the country, which cannot fail to please. Coal is the principal fuel, 12 cwt. of which, brought by water, costs in the Cardross Bay, where it is unloaded, 5 s. Sterling. Many of the farmers bring their coals from Kilpatrick, and pay at the pit 2 s. per cart. Attempts have been made to find coal in this parish, but as yet they have proved unsuccessful.

Rents, Proprietors, &c.—The valued rent is 3000 l. Scotch. It is difficult to say what the real rent amounts to, as many of the proprietors retain considerable farms in their own hands. The value of land, however, must be on the rise. The great influx of strangers, in consequence of the manufactures upon the Leven, occasions an increasing demand for whatever the parish produces. Thus the farmers find a ready and convenient market at home, a circumstance which cannot fail to accelerate the improvement of the country, and increase the real rent of the proprietors. In the neighbourhood of the Leven, many inclosures are let upon leases, for between 2 l. and 4 l. Sterling per acre. There are 13 heritors, 3 of whom possess more than two thirds of the whole.

Roads.—The two great roads through the parish, the one leading to Loch-Lomond, the other running along the Clyde, are kept in the best possible repair. To these the statute labour, now commuted, is annually applied. Great praise, however, cannot be bestowed on the cross or parish roads. But as the commissioners must be sensible of the necessity of
cross

cross roads for the improvement of the country, no exertion, we are convinced, will be wanting on their part to promote so laudable an end.

Population.—The population has of late greatly increased. From a list taken in November 1793, it appears there were no fewer than - - - 2194 souls. The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was only 795

Increase within these 38 years	1399
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Of the above number there are

Children under 10 years of age	614
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Ditto above that age	482
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Heads of families, including both husbands and

wives	847
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Hired servants	251
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2194

In the village of Renton, about	1200
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In the rest of the parish	994
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2194

Births.*

Marriages.

Registered in 1791

75

17

— in 1792

60

21

Print-fields.—The print-fields of *Dalquhurn*† and *Cordale* are by far the most considerable and extensive of any in Scotland.

* It is difficult accurately to ascertain the number of children that are annually born, as many, who are not of the establishment, neglect their registration. There is no register of deaths.

† The ground, now occupied by the former, was early in this century set apart chiefly for a bleach-field. A few coarse handkerchiefs,

land. Messrs Stirling, who purchased this field from the original proprietors, are well known. At first they had a field at Dalholm, in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, where they carried on the business of printing to a considerable extent. Upwards of 20 years ago, they removed from that situation to the river Leven in this parish. To this they might have been led by a variety of circumstances, but by nothing more than by the softness and transparency of the water of the Leven, so peculiarly fitted for the purpose of bleaching. A neck of land, in the form of a peninsula, occasioned, it would appear, by the river forsaking its former channel, was the place marked out as the most proper to answer the end which they proposed. Accordingly, in 1772, a purchase was made of this spot, called *Cordale*, and upon it houses have been built, and machinery constructed, to an extent, and upon a plan, which must have cost the company an amazing sum.—At these fields, the property of this company, there were employed, in summer 1792, 876 persons. Of these 300 were girls (*pincellers*), and about 130 were boys, from 8 to 15 years of age. It may be proper to observe, that the boys are in general healthy, active, and lively, having nothing of that pale and sickly look, which too often marks those boys who are employed in the cotton spinning. The wages for one month, July 1792, amounted to within a trifle of 1000 l. Sterling. It would be to no purpose to enter here into a minute detail; the Statistical Account of the parish

kerchiefs, it is true, were then printed; but nothing fine or valuable in the printing line was carried on, till about 20 years ago, when it was purchased by a company in Glasgow, under the firm of M'Alpine, Fleeming, and Co. Buildings were raised, and machinery constructed, by this company, at great expense; an extensive capital was employed, and every appearance promised success. This flattering prospect, however, was soon clouded. Disputes arising among the partners produced a sale of the property, and a dissolution of the company.

parish of Bonhill, already published, contains all the necessary information: To it the reader is referred *. Suffice it to observe, that every division of labour takes place at these two fields, which is known to facilitate the work, and to carry the art to a high degree of perfection. The goods manufactured are said to rival, in the London market, to which most of them are sent, even those of the finest quality that are the manufacture of the first print-fields in England.

Villages.—In the year 1782, the hands employed at the above fields had become so numerous, that it was extremely difficult to accommodate them, in houses and lodging in the neighbourhood. Mrs. SMOLLETT of Bonhill, whose lands lay most contiguous, readily embraced this opportunity of improving her family estate, and of accommodating the public. Accordingly, a village was planned by the advice, and under the direction of her son, now her successor. No sooner was this plan adjusted, and the terms of building fixed upon, which are from 9 d. to 14 d. the fall, upon transferable leases of 99 years, than a great number of steadings were purchased, and houses immediately built. The first stone was laid in 1782, and the village was called *Rentoun* by the feuars, in compliment to the present Mrs Smollet, who had been active in encouraging an undertaking of such importance, both to her family and to the public. Since the above period, the village has rapidly increased. It consists of three principal streets, which run in a direction from north to south, parallel to one another. These again are intersected by a number of other streets, all laid off at regular distances. The demand for houses, every where upon the Leven, has, within these few years past, been very great. In consequence of this, besides the village of Rentoun, a number of houses have
been

* See volume III. No. LXV,

been built in this parish, opposite to Dumbarton, upon fees from Mr Denniston of Colgrain; and a village is just now begun upon the property of Mr Graham of Gartmore, which, it is probable, when the present stagnation of business is over, will fast increase in population.

Distillery, Mills, Ferries, &c.—There is one distillery, which consumes of the produce of the parish about 500 bolls of bear and barley. The number of public houses, or rather whisky shops, has of late been greatly diminished. The Justices have for this year given licence to only two in the village of Rentoun, to sell spirits of home produce. There are three corn mills, at two of which the culture on the restricted lands, is nearly in the proportion of one peck and an half the boll, consisting of 8 stones. This proves a great discouragement to improvement. There are 4 different ferries, two of these are of great antiquity, as appears from the charters of the proprietors. The prices of labour, victuals, &c. are nearly the same as in Glasgow and its neighbourhood.

Fisheries.—The *Zair* or *Yair Fishings*, so productive in this parish, seem to be almost peculiar to it. A yare is built of stones gathered from the tide water-mark, about 4 feet in height, and of considerable length, and stretches out into the river in the form of a crescent, or of three sides of a square; but to give it a probability of succeeding, it must proceed from a point of land, so as to inclose a bay. The distance which it is extended from the shore is such, as to make it appear, or to *crown*, as the fishers term it, about two hours before low water. Were it placed farther into the sea, or built higher, the surf would be continually beating it down. In spring tides, the water retiring quickly, great quantities of fish, particularly herrings, are occasionally taken within

these inclosures ; and salmon, in small quantities, during the spring and summer months. Along the Cardross shore there are many such inclosures, but those most happily situated are the properties of Mr Dennistoun of Colgrain, and Mr Noble of Noble-Farm. The rights to these yare fishings prove them to be of very high antiquity, being granted by crown charters above 500 years ago, and confirmed by all subsequent charters. By these, the proprietors of the soil have the right of exercising yare fishings upon the shore to low water-mark. Some of these rights extend as far as a man can ride beyond low water, and from that throw a twelve-feet spear. This extent of shore, during the herring season, is attentively guarded, that the fish which may entrap themselves in these yares, may neither be alarmed by, nor taken in the nets of the boat-fishers.—It is remarked, from the earliest accounts of this kind of fishing, that the herrings visit the river Clyde, at nearly 3 equal periods in 100 years, each period consisting of several years fishing. The mode of securing what fish may be in the yares, is with a hand-net. By ancient custom, two thirds belong to the yare proprietor, and one third to the fisher, if a tenant upon the adjoining lands. But when strangers are permitted to fish, they have only one fourth part of their success allowed them.

Church, &c.—The church of Cardross originally stood in the eastern extremity of the parish, opposite to Dumbarton, and separated from it by the river Leven. This situation must have been very inconvenient to the parish, and therefore, in 1643, a new church was built in the place where it now stands, the most central, indeed, that could have been chosen, and the most convenient to the parish at large. The church is a neat building, well lighted and well seated. It underwent a complete repair in 1775, and, by the care and
attention,

attention of the heritors, it is kept in the best possible order. The manse was built about 60 years ago; since that period it has undergone frequent repairs. Upon the succession of the present incumbent, in 1791, the heritors, with the greatest frankness, laid out 200*l.* Sterling in repairing of the manse and offices. The crown is patron, and the minister titular. Cardross is one of the few parishes in Scotland, where the right of titular is vested in the incumbent. From a late investigation, in ascertaining the right of patronage, it appears, that it was neither a mental church, nor ever annexed to any religious house, and therefore, as the Crown is patron, it continues at this day precisely in the same state as before the Reformation; with this difference only, that there has been a dilapidation of 11 bolls of meal. Beside the parish church, there are other two houses for public worship; the one of the Burgher persuasion in the village of Rentoun; the other of the Relief, lately built in the neighbourhood of Dumbarton. These dissenters consist chiefly of people connected with the printfields. The farmers, in general, are attached to the establishment.

School.—The schoolmaster draws no salary from the heritors. The emoluments of his office arise from his school, which, at an average, may be frequented by 40 or 50 scholars, and from a donation of the family of Kilmahew. This donation consists in the yearly payment of 5 *l.* being the interest of 100 *l.* Sterling sunk for the behoof of the schoolmaster, and placed under the management of the heritors. Besides this sum, which was bequeathed for the above purpose by a younger branch of the family, the proprietor himself executed a deed, disposing to the public teacher a right to an acre of land, a cow's pasture upon a specified farm, and 5 bolls 1 firiot of bear, payable from certain other farms up-

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on the estate of Kilmahew. Over and above the fees for teaching, and the said donation, the perquisites of session-clerk may be equal, *communibus annis*, to 5 l. Sterling.

Poor.—The poor are supplied from two sources—from the weekly collection, which, with the proclamation money, may amount annually to upwards of 30 l. Sterling; and from a legacy bequeathed a few years after the Revolution, by a Mrs Muir, a native of this parish, and originally of the name of Watton. This legacy consisted of 500 l. Sterling, to be applied under the direction of the usual managers of the poor, for the behoof of the indigent living within a certain district of the parish, specially named in the deed of mortification. The above sum was, early in this century, laid out in the purchase of land, which, by the last let, produces a revenue upwards of 70 l. Sterling *per annum*. There are no begging poor, and the heritors have never as yet been subjected to any assessment. The number upon the session roll varies, but, in general, there are a dozen and upwards, who receive quarterly a small contribution. The number entitled to the benefit of Mrs Muir's mortification also varies according to circumstances.

Eminent Men.—Contiguous to the village of Rentoun, in the old house of Dalquhurn, was born the celebrated Dr TOBIAS SMOLLETT. He was the grandson of Sir James Smollett of Bonhill, Bart. a gentleman of considerable property in this county, a member of the last Scotch Parliament, and a commissioner in framing the Union. The father of Tobias being a younger son, received, according to the custom of his country, only a small share of Sir James's fortune, and, dying at an early period of life, left his family, consisting of two sons and a daughter, in circumstances not
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the most effluent. The two brothers received the rudiments of their education in the school of Dumbarton. The elder, whose name was James, was bred a soldier, and amongst his acquaintance was distinguished for his address, and those talents of wit and humour, which afterwards characterised Tobias. A premature death, (he having perished at sea off the coast of America), robbed the world of those talents, which, if ripened by time and study, might have shone forth with distinguished lustre. Tobias, the younger, was educated in the medical line, served an apprenticeship to a surgeon in Glasgow, and soon after acted as mate aboard a man of war. In this capacity he was present at the siege of Carthage, the particulars of which he describes in *Roderick Random* with so much life. Tobias could not long continue in this situation. His aspiring genius disdained the drudgery to which his professional line exposed him. He was a man of the most polished manners, and finest address, talents which seldom fail to recommend the physician. But with these he possessed a pride which counteracted their influence. He could not stoop to that insinuating flattery so prevalent in the world, of which even the wise and knowing have often become the dupes. His mind was chiefly turned to the study of life and manners, in delineating which he is perhaps surpassed by few. In this particular, as a painter of life and character, he has reflected the highest honour upon the place of his nativity, and must ever be considered by his country among the first of her sons in literary reputation. As a historian, he may be inferior to Hume and Robertson in refinement of thought, and political observation; but when the subject leads to description, or to the delineation of character, his powers appear unrivalled. To the greatest genius, he joined the most unremitting application. One proof of this cannot fail to be noticed, which is, that in less than 14 months

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he collected materials, composed, and prepared for the press, his whole History of England : An effort to which his narrow and straitened circumstances might have directed him, but to which nothing but the most distinguished abilities, and the most vigorous application, could have been equal. He married a Jamaica lady, and by her had an only daughter, who was cut off in the bloom of youth. After a life chequered by a variety of incidents, he died at Leghorn, whither he had gone for the recovery of his health, in 1771, in the 51st year of his age. Adjacent to the place of his nativity, a column was lately raised to his memory by his cousin, with the following inscription :

Siste viator !
 Si lepores, ingenique venam benignam ;
 Si morum calidissimum pictorem,
 Unquam es miratus,
 Immorare paululum memoriae
TOBIA SMOLLETT, M. D.
 Viri virtutibus hisce
 Quas in homine et cive,
 Et laudes et imiteris,
 Haud mediocriter ornati ;
 Qui in literis variis versatus,
 Postquam, felicitate sibi propria,
 Sese posteris commendaverat,
 Morte acerba raptus,
 Anno aetatis 51.
 Eheu ! quam procul a patria,
 Prope liburni portem in Italia,
 Jacet sepultus:
 Tali tantoque viro, patrueli suo,
 Cui, in decursu, Lampada

Se potius tradidisse decuit,
 Hanc columnam.
 Amoris cheu ! inane monumentum,
 In ipsis Leviniae ripis
 Quas, verficulis, sub exitu vitae, illustratas,
 Primis, infans, vagitibus perfonuit,
 Ponendam curavit
 JACOBUS SMOLLETT de Bonhill.

Antiquities.—A little west of the Leven, upon a small eminence called *Castle-hill*, stood, it is said, a castle, at times the residence of King Robert Bruce. In this castle, of which no vestige is now discernible, that favourite prince, as history and tradition informs us, breathed his last. A farm in the neighbourhood still pays to the superior a feu-duty called *dog-meal*. This tax is supposed to have been originally imposed for the maintenance of his Majesty's hounds.

Character.—The people in general are sober and industrious. The introduction of manufactures has, no doubt, produced some change in their habits and manners; and whether this change may operate more in the end to their advantage or hurt, time alone can determine.

NUMBER XVI.

ISLAND AND PARISH OF SHAPINSHAY.

(COUNTY OF ORKNEY AND ZETLAND.—PRESBYTERY
OF NORTH ISLES.—SYNOD OF ORKNEY.)

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE BARRY, Minister.

Origin of the Name.

FROM whence the name of this parish has been derived, cannot be determined with any degree of certainty. There is, however, no improbability in supposing it to come from the word *ay* or *ey*, which, in the Norse or Norwegian language, is said to signify an island, and the name of that animal to which we are indebted for so considerable a part of our food and clothing. The animal here alluded to is the sheep, for the breeding and pasturing of which the island has been reckoned rather remarkable, and therefore it has been, with some propriety, stiled *Shapinsbay*, or the Sheep-Island. But with more probability still, it may perhaps be derived from the Saxon language. If we may credit the poet Claudian, the Saxons early inhabited this country, and had even the misfortune to bedew it with their blood. "*Ma-
duerunt Saxone fuso Orcades.*" Among that people *fo* or *fo w* signified a valley, and such an one too as lies near the middle of the island in question; and from the combination of the name sheep with this word, the whole parish may have got the name of the Sheep Valley, or Shapinshay. But
waving

waving any farther consideration of this point, as it is a matter of no great importance, we may observe, that it has been distinguished by the name which it now bears for these several centuries. To support this observation, we have the authority of Torfacus, and the authors specified by him, and also of the celebrated Buchanan, who not only mentions the name of this island, but describes its situation and extent with considerable accuracy. "*Littori propior Siapinsa paulum se in orientem inflectens, ex adverso Cracoviace, (Kirkwall), duo millia fita, ipsa sex millia longa.*"

Situation, Extent, Form, Division, &c.—To the north of the east part of the main-land, from which it is distant about one mile, and three from Kirkwall, this island extends almost in the form of a cross, from Stromberry to Neils, near 7 miles, and from the Galt to the foot of Shapinsay, more than 5. The body of the cross stretches from south-west to north-east, and the arms from south-east to north-west. Almost around the whole island, the shores are low, pretty level, and, to a considerable distance inland, covered with rich fields of grass and corn. Towards the middle, the land rises considerably higher; and as the hand of industry has never disturbed its repose since the creation, it exhibits the appearance of a barren waste, fit only for sheep pasture.

Ancient Custom.—As all the lands on the shore are property, so the whole of the hill ground is common, and they are divided from each other by what is here called a *hill-dyke*, a species of fence, it is believed, almost peculiar to this country. The period when this kind of fence was first in use in these islands is lost in the mist of antiquity. They are common through most of the islands. They are built of turf. They crumble down in winter, are repaired

again in the spring when the corn begins to rise, and every proprietor, or his tenants, are compelled not only by the usage of the place, but by bye-laws enacted for the purpose, to repair and keep up a part of the hill-dyke, proportioned to the extent of their farms, or his property. These feeble fences, if they deserve the name of fences, are intended to supersede the necessity of herding domestic animals. Early in the summer, when the corn begins to spring, the young cattle, and particularly all the sheep, are inclosed within them, rather to wander about than to feed, till the end of autumn. So long as the nights are short, the weather mild, and the pasture tolerable, they continue within these limits without much reluctance; but when the season advances, hunger and cold impel them to leap the dykes in pursuit of better nourishment, and more shelter. Instead of their being directed by the tender and attentive care of a shepherd, they are then attacked with sticks and stones, and hunted by dogs, with more fury than is commonly used to ravenous beasts in other countries. Hence these animals, which under proper management might be a source of wealth to the proprietors, and a benefit to the country at large, are decreasing in number, and degenerating in quality so fast, that in a short time, if the mode of treatment is not altered, they will not be worth the raising. To protect these harmless, and very useful creatures from their various enemies, to watch over the young and the old, and the diseased; and, upon occasion, to lead them to proper shelter and pasture, so as to render their fleece and their carcase important objects of rural oeconomy, herding them is absolutely necessary. So blindly attached, however, are the ordinary class of people here to ancient customs, and such rooted aversion have they to discover what store they have to their landlords and to their ministers, that no force of example, no influence of authority, no arguments
drawn

drawn from either humanity or from interest, can prevail with them to adopt a measure which in every respect appears so reasonable. A process is said to be at present depending, which will in the issue certainly determine how far custom, in regard to hill dykes, is to be considered as the law of the country. But in whatever way the law may determine this point, we, from a sincere regard to the interests of the country, cannot help wishing that the custom of the district, in regard to this matter, would yield to the statute for herding of cattle.

Formerly there are said to have been near 3000 sheep in the island, and now, owing to a variety of causes, they do not exceed the half of that number. The black cattle amount to about 800, and the horses only to 250, owing to an infectious disorder having some years ago entered the parish, and in a few months carried off great numbers of them. As there are few evils but what produce some good, this disorder, which the people at the time had good reason to consider as a misfortune, may, it is likely, in the end, turn out to their advantage, in so far as it has compelled them, in spite of their aversion to novelties, to employ oxen instead of horses. To the regret of all good farmers, swine are raised here in vast numbers; and what adds much to the evil, they are under the very worst of management. In the summer season they are driven to the hill with the sheep and young cattle, where they commit depredations without molestation; and at the end of harvest, when the fruits of the earth are removed, they come down in legions, fierce and hungry, and are allowed to roam at large around the shores, to the almost utter destruction of some of the best land of the island.

Agriculture.—The soil, though in most places thin and shallow, is naturally fertile, otherwise, considering the hurt it receives

receives from these destructive animals, and the clumsy awkward way in which it is cultivated, it would produce no sort of crop whatever. Oats and bear alternately, however, it produces, as also pretty good potatoes, and formerly flax of a tolerable quality, was raised on it. To prepare the land for these crops, which are of the utmost consequence to the inhabitants, as they make the principal part of their food, far too little attention is paid. Unacquainted with the mode of farming in a more favoured climate, the farmers are at no pains to make the direction of the ridges answer to the nature of the soil and the situation of the land; they never straight nor raise them, nor water-furrow their ground, nor do they ever think of plowing it till within two or three weeks of seed time. The whole winter's industry is thus in a great measure lost; the land loses the benefit which it might receive from the frost and snow; and, as the labour is not properly divided, but comes almost all on at one season, this circumstance obliges them to purchase more cattle, and maintain more servants than otherwise would be necessary. The plough which is in general used, is but ill calculated to obviate the disadvantages that arise from unseasonable labouring. It has only one slender stilt, to which as slender a beam is fixed, and has neither reest nor mould-board; the ploughman holds it by this stilt, and directs it by a short batton held loose in his hand for that purpose. Defective as this instrument must appear, it has been honoured by a comparison with the plough described by Virgil and Columella, as used by the Romans, to which it no doubt bears some resemblance, and the parallel has been drawn between them with all the parade of pompous ignorance. But if the form of the plough be exceptionable, the mode of yoking the cattle is not less so. Instead of placing them in a line, or two and two together, as is common in the south of Scotland, four of them, whither

whither horses or oxen be employed, are yoked a-breast, with a straight pole fixed to all of their noses, which the driver holds in the middle, and walks backwards before them. From the form of the plough, it is evident it can neither raise the furrow thoroughly, or what is called plow clear, nor turn it over perfectly, but must either suffer it to stand on the edge, or, what is much more common, to fall back with the surface uppermost. Their way of yoking their cattle, too, is subject to inconveniencies, for it must evidently hamper their motions and exertions, and thus render their work of less consequence; the land must be poached with their feet, especially near the furrows, and, as the driver is placed before them, and walks backwards, he can neither make them go fast nor slow, nor direct them to the right hand nor to the left with any degree of facility.

To every intelligent farmer, it is an object of much importance to clear his land of those weeds with which it is most infested, and the methods he makes use of for this purpose, are either to apply proper manure, to raise potatoes, turnip, and other green crops, or to exert himself in summer fallowing. Though our lands be overrun with almost every species of plants that tend to obstruct the growth of corn, our ordinary little farmers are either ignorant of, or despise every one of these methods. They plow their little fields in spring, cover them with some sea-weed, sow them immediately, and as soon as the seed is committed to mother earth, they carelessly fold their arms, satisfied they have done their duty, and leave the event to divine providence. Neither are they more enlightened or more industrious in regard to the use or the application of manures. Some of them have excellent marl almost for the lifting, and lime for the taking up and laying on their lands, at the sole expence of the proprietor, and yet they will
not

not be at the trouble to employ either the one or the other, though they have been repeatedly told what wonderful effects they have produced in fertilizing the soil in other parts of the kingdom. Even the dung of their cattle, which is at their hand, and which is so generally considered as an excellent manure, rather than be at the pains to carry to their fields, they in some places throw into the sea, by way of a peace offering to Neptune, in order to render him propitious in casting a-shore for them plenty of sea-weed, which is the only substance they consider as a valuable manure. As they have been accustomed, time out of mind, to sow the grain they have raised on their own farms, no arguments can prevail with them to change their seed; and, what is far worse, they have conceived an opinion that seed, however ill ripened and ill dressed, however light and bad it may be, will produce a crop in every respect as good as what would have been produced by the very best seed of the country.

Under all these, and some other disadvantages, the Orkney Islands, in ordinary years, produce as much grain as is sufficient to maintain about 24,000 inhabitants, after setting aside near one third of the crop as feu-duty, which is frequently carried out of the kingdom. A more substantial proof cannot be brought of the fertility of any country, than its producing, at a moderate price, even under bad cultivation, as much as is necessary for its own consumption. This is certainly the case with ours, for we have, in ordinary years, malt at 10 s. per boll, oat meal at half a guinea, and bear meal at 8 s. Sterling.

From this general charge of bad farming, we must exempt most of our gentlemen, as well those that rent farms from others, as those that are their own property. Some of them continue, in a great measure, the old plan, intermixing it

now

now and then with such alterations and improvements as are suggested by reading, by experience, and observation; while others, unshackled by prejudice, have adopted a mode which is in every respect rational as well as useful, which in time must have influence in the way of example, and which, considering the circumstances of the country and climate, would do them no discredit among the most intelligent farmers. In this last class may justly be ranked the only residing heritor of this parish, who, in the space of 7 or 8 years that he has possessed the estate, has totally changed the face of that part of the island. Previous to his purchase, nothing was to be seen over its whole extent, but a dreary waste, interspersed with arable lands ill cultivated, a few miserable hovels thinly scattered over its surface, under the name of farm houses or cottages, which were not fit to shelter from the rigours of the climate a few ragged inhabitants, dirty through indolence, lean with hunger, and torpid by despair. Every thing on this estate now happily wears a very different and more pleasant aspect. An elegant house has been built, and an extensive garden laid out; the lands are substantially inclosed, and judiciously cultivated with the English plough; many barren fields are, by cultivation, made fertile; summer fallowing, with a change of seed and rotation of crops, is introduced with good effect; and the soil, which formerly bore with reluctance coarse grass, and scanty heather, and puny oats and bear, now chearfully produces oats, rye, barley, pease, wheat, potatoes, clover, and turnips, in considerable quantity and of a good quality. Together with these improvements, the same gentleman has erected a little village by the side of the harbour of Elwick, in which he has placed joiners, carpenters, weavers, tailors, shoemakers, coopers, and labourers of various sorts, furnished them with work sufficient to employ them; and thus enabled

enabled them from the fruits of their industry to marry early, and to produce numerous families. In short, Clifdale, which is the name of this gentleman's seat, taken in conjunction with its appendages, exhibits to the eye of a stranger coming from the sea, or from Kirkwall, rather the appearance of a neat little villa in the vicinity of some opulent city, than of a gentleman's house recently raised in a remote sequestered part of the kingdom. That the former proprietor did not make some, or all of these improvements upon the estate, while it was in his hands, was neither owing to his want of sense nor of virtue, for he had a large share of both; but to his being obliged to live at some distance, in order to discharge the duties of a troublesome office, which required all his attention, and of his wanting the means of exciting and rewarding industry, by the expences he incurred in maintaining a numerous family. The heritors of this parish are, the Crown for the bishops lands, of which Sir Thomas Dundas is tacksmen; Robert Laing, Esq; of Strenzie, and Major Balfour of Elwick, who together possess the whole island. This parish formerly made part of the temporality of the bishopric of Orkney. The estates of Sound, and How, and Hammer, the former the property of Major Balfour, and the latter of Mr Laing, are feus from the bishops of Orkney. How is the seat of Mr Laing, where he has an old house pleasantly situated amidst rich corn fields and fine grass; and which, were he to reside there, and turn his attention towards improvement, might soon be made one of the most fertile and pleasant spots in Shapinshay. In the neighbourhood of this place he has had lime kilns for many years past, by which he has put in motion a considerable quantity of industry. The lime is prepared from stones which contain about one half of calcareous matter, and are blown by gun-powder from rocks under the high water mark, and the produce, amounting some seasons

to 3000 barrels, finds a ready market and a good price through the island, particularly in Kirkwall.

As no measurement of this parish has ever been taken, the proportion which the uncultivated lands bear to those that are cultivated, cannot be ascertained with any degree of exactness; but the latter, it is certain, have been divided into penny lands, and the rental of the island is said not to exceed 600 l. Sterling.

Church, Minister, &c.—The church was built in 1630, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and bears the name of Lady Kirk. The manse was erected in 1760. The stipend, with the profits of the glebe, may amount to about 90 l. Sterling; and besides the present incumbent, who was settled 12th September last, there have only been two ministers of Shapinſhay, namely, Messrs Alexander Nisbet, and Alexander Pitcairn, since the Revolution. In the new erection and foundation of the chapter, made by Bishop Reed, no mention whatever is made of the minister of this parish, as among the seven dignitaries, or seven canons and prebends that composed this chapter. The minister of South Ronaldſhay was provost or dean; the minister of Birsay archdeacon; the minister of Orphir precentor; the minister of Sanda chancellor; the minister of Stronsay treasurer; the minister of Islay sub-dean; and the minister of Walls sub-chantor.

Antiquities.—The genius of superstition has been as active here in ancient times, as in most other places; for we find it has been employed in raising several little chapels in various parts of the parish. What good purpose they could serve, it is not very easy to imagine, especially when built, as they sometimes were, on holms or uninhabited islands. In

Elhardholm, which is a place of that kind, and connected with, and belonging to this parish, there is one of these chapels, that in every respect resembles the other insignificant buildings of the same nature so much, as not to deserve a particular description. On the highest ground, and near the center of the parish, there is, as in most of the other islands, a wart or ward-hill, which commands an accurate and extensive view, not only of this, but of 15 surrounding parishes. To me this appears plainly to be artificial, and though one of the largest kind, is certainly one of those tumuli which are so frequently to be met with in these islands. These tumuli, or little mounds of earth, seem to have been raised to cover the dead bodies, and perpetuate the memories of distinguished persons; for in almost every one of them that has been opened, there have been found bones, and sometimes burnt earth, and not unfrequently urns containing half burnt bones and ashes. In support of this opinion we may have recourse to Tacitus and Verstigan, who inform us that both the ancient Romans, and Germans, and Saxons, observed the custom of laying their dead bodies on the ground, and raising over them heaps of earth, covered with turf, in the form of little hillocks. To the eastward of this little wart or ward-hillock about an English mile, is a high stone, called the *Standing Stone of Shopinsboay*. Above the level of the ground it is 12 feet high, and perhaps 5 or 6 below it; its breadth is between 4 and 5 feet; its thickness a foot and a half; and from its being clothed in moss or scruf, it has a very venerable majestic aspect, and seems to have weathered many ages. In both its form and dimensions, it very much resembles stones that are found standing in many of the other islands, particularly, the circle and semicircle in the parish of Stennes; and it has perhaps been erected either as a place of worship, or sacrifice, or to be a monument of some signal battle

battle or victory, or to preserve the memory of some celebrated hero who had fallen in the field of battle. Towards the north side of the island, and by the sea side, is another large stone, called the Black Stone of *Odin*. Instead of standing erect, like the one above mentioned, it rests its huge side on the sand, and raises its back high above the surrounding stones, from which it seems to be altogether different in quality. How it has come there, for what purpose, and what relation it has borne to the Scandinavian god with whose name it has been honoured, not only history or record, but even tradition is totally silent. As the bay in a neighbouring island is distinguished by the name of Guuden, or the Bay or Guo of *Odin*, in which there is found dulce that is supposed to prevent disease and prolong life; so this stone might have had sanctity formerly which is now forgotten, when the only office that is assigned it is to serve as a march-stone between the ware strands or kelp shores of two conterminous heritors. On the west shore, opposite nearly to the rock or skerry of *Vasa*, where the tides are rapid and the sea is shallow, we meet with a place known by the name of *Grucula* or *Agricola*. Thither, tradition reports, one of *Agricola's* ships, in his celebrated voyage around the island of Britain, was driven by violence of weather, and stranded; and what seems to evince that the tradition is founded on truth is, that Roman coins are said to have been found here, by the late Mr *Fca* of *Clestron*. Though *Agricola's* son-in-law, *Tacitus*, not only mentions his having been in these islands, but also his having conquered them, and discovered *Thule*, till then involved in darkness, and covered with snow, no such disaster is described by his strong and elegant pencil. From his silence, however, we cannot justly infer the event never happened, especially as he mentions the *Orkneys* in such a rapid and superficial manner.

“ *Hanc*

*"Hanc oram novissime maris tunc primum Romana classis circum-
 "vecta, insulam esse Britanniam affirmavit, ac simul insignitas
 "ad id tempus insulas quas Orcades vocant, invenit, domuitque,
 "dispecta est et Tbule quam hactenus nix et hiems abdebat."* But

the most remarkable pieces of antiquity in this, and indeed in the other islands, are those large ruins commonly denominated *Piſt-bouſes*. Here they are frequently met with along the sea shore, two or three of them at no great distance from, and in general raising their conical heads in view of each other. They are situated, for the most part, on the most pleasant spots; they are covered with green, and ornamented with flowers and herbs of various sorts; and such of them as have been examined by the eye of curiosity, have discovered considerable variety in both their form and dimensions. Most of them are circular; some of them verging towards an oval shape; some of them are very large, others of a smaller size; in general they are built without cement, in some few instances with it; and, from the remains of the most entire of them, it would appear that they are wide at the foundation, and are contracted as they advance upwards, somewhat in the form of a kiln, and that they were closed or covered at the top is probable. The inside of such of them as we have seen, however, is divided into a great number of apartments, many of which seem to be of a very whimsical and inconvenient form, and all of them are so small as to be unfit for any permanent accommodation for man. To what purpose, therefore, has such a quantity of labour been wasted, in erecting such large and massy piles, and that at a period when industry was certainly not ranked among the number of the virtues? As there was a time, perhaps, when each of these islands, especially of the larger kind, was a state within itself, governed by its own prince or its own chieftain, these buildings might have been erected as forts to defend

defend the inhabitants against invaders. On these the men might have taken their stations, and annoyed the boats attempting to land with their arrows, or sink them with darts, stones, or other missile weapons; and to shew that this opinion is not entirely founded in fancy, these ruins are most frequently to be met with near bays, beaches, or other landing places. From their internal structure, consisting of a variety of little cells, there is no absurdity in supposing they have been intended as places of security for treasures, for the most valuable furniture, and for provisions. Thither they might bring these articles, and whatever else they put the greatest value on, deposit them with care, and, collecting their force around, defend them to the utmost extremity. In those that have been dug up, there have always been found half burnt stones and earth, together with a considerable quantity of ashes, and many human bones, and the bones of various other animals. From this circumstance, we may be allowed to conjecture that they have in the early ages, long before the practice of burying in church-yards, served as sepulchral monuments for princes, chieftains, heroes, and other distinguished persons. But whatever was the view, with which they were at first erected, and to whatever purposes they were afterwards applied, they are very numerous through the islands in this country, and are sometimes to be met with on the coast of Caithness. Of the same nature with them, perhaps, were the buildings named *Danes Rath*s in Ireland. Ware, in his antiquities of that kingdom, informs us, that *Turgotus* the Norwegian, in the year 835, raised these round works or fortifications, which are yet to be seen in many parts of Ireland. The *Cartilla Brigantum*, mentioned by *Juvenal* in his fourteenth Satyr, were probably of the same kind. Near *Cliffdale*, some short time ago, when the workmen were digging for the foundation of a house, they discovered

vered a subterraneous building of a singular nature. It had been formed by digging the earth about 3 feet deep, and erecting pillars of stones built one upon another to the height of 4 feet, to support a flat roof of broad stones or flags that covered the whole building, which was composed of two hexagons contiguous to one another, and their diameter about 8 feet, and of a rectangle as large as both. As the whole fabric was considerably below ground, and no vestige whatever to be seen on the surface, it perhaps has been used as a place for concealing various articles of value, for which it seemed well calculated. However that may be, there was found in it a gold ring of an uncommon construction. The outside of that ring was broad and large, composed as it were of three cords twisted or plaited together; the inside was much narrower, and pretty well fitted for the use of the finger. No inscription whatever appeared on any part of it; and at the joining, instead of being foldered, it seemed to have been beaten together with a hammer. Near this place there were lead mines attempted to be wrought formerly; and the first specimens of the ore were so promising, that a company in the south granted their obligation to the proprietor for 500l. a-year, in order to obtain his permission to work them. The sum stipulated procured his consent; they began with spirit, and advanced a considerable length, when either their affairs went into disorder, or they found that the veins went too deep, or in the direction of the sea, or that the ore did not prove so rich as it promised, which constrained them to relinquish the undertaking.

Harbour.—The harbour of Elwick, which is the only one that belongs to this island, is as excellent for its extent as almost any one in this country. In this harbour, as well as around all the coast, it is high water at three quarters of an hour

hour after 9 o'clock, when the moon is new and full. It has from 4 to 6 fathom water, over a bottom of hard clay covered with sand. On the west side of it is a fine beach, with abundance of excellent fresh water; and as it opens to the south-west, it is extremely convenient for ships bound to the southward. In ancient times it seems to have been called E-lidarwick; for we are informed by an Icelandic manuscript, lately translated, that Haco king of Norway, 1263, lay with his fleet in a harbour of that name, near Kirkwall, in his way to the Hebrides or west of Scotland. He had planned an expedition against Alexander III, king of Scotland, and after he had lain in this harbour till St. Olave's Wake, he sailed south before the Muir of Ronaldsha, with all his navy.

Industry and Manufactures.—The boats belonging to this place are about 80, most of which are engaged in fishing, and in carrying the rents and feu-duties, which are paid in kind, to Kirkwall, except about 20, that are the property of Major Balfour, who frequently employs them otherwise. The same gentleman has 8 vessels, 4 brigs and 4 sloops, that are almost constantly employed in the trade of this country, and require 50 sailors to work them. Besides cultivating their little farms, and preparing the produce of them for their landlords and for the market, the men are employed in fishing what are called *fillocks* for their daily support, and the women in spinning tow and linen yarn for sale, and in working up the wool of their sheep, which is of an excellent quality, for clothing to themselves and their families. There are few tradesmen in the parish, except those in the village lately erected on the banks of the harbour of Elwick. Their industry is not only beneficial to themselves, but to others in the way of example, and to the public at large, by enabling them to rear numerous families. The summer months are occupied

occupied in burning kelp, which is the great manufacture of this country. The men almost of the whole islands, and many of the women, also exert themselves in this species of industry; and their joint efforts some seasons produce upwards of 3000 tons, which, at a moderate rate, brings near 20,000 l. to the inhabitants. As it occupies the industry, and constitutes the principal part of the riches of the place, every attention should be given it by those that are friends to their country. The proprietors of lands, and their tenants and cottars, the tradesmen in the towns of Kirkwall and Stromness, as well as in the country places, and merchants or shopkeepers every where, derive from it much benefit. To them only who have stated salaries it is detrimental, by increasing the quantity, and thereby diminishing the value of money, and without adding to the stock, raising the price of provisions. Its being extremely useful, however, will serve as an apology for our considering its nature, the purposes to which it is applied, the mode of manufacturing it, and the means by which that mode may be improved.

Kelp.—Kelp is composed of the ashes of various sea plants, cut from the rocks, or collected on the beach, and burnt in kilns or pits made on the shore for that purpose. It consists chiefly of the *fixed vegetable alkali*, in a considerably caustic state, never altogether pure, but intermixed with other salts, and particularly with Glauber's salts, and muriated and vitriolated magnesia. The fixed vegetable alkali is the only valuable part of the kelp, and to it the other 3 kinds of salt are found to bear but a small proportion; they do not hurt it materially in the manufactures in which it is used, and if they did hurt it, a separation from them could, with no great difficulty, be obtained. If it is pure, or nearly so, it answers every purpose of the purest pot-ashes, which is a lixivial salt, obtained

tained by the burning of wood, and which can be obtained only at a very high price, and from a foreign country. In that case it supplies its place in bleaching, in the manufacture of soap, of allum, of glass, and perhaps is necessary in some other of the most important manufactures of Britain. The whole tribe of sea-weeds is capable, by burning, to produce kelp; but what are made use of here for that purpose are the four following sorts: 1st, The tangle, (*Fucus Digitatus*, Lin.), the top of which is here called red ware, whose roots are fixed in the rocks, and are very seldom left dry even at the lowest spring tides. 2^{dly}, The sea-oak, (*Fucus Vesiculosus*, Lin.), which we denominate black tang, and which grows next to the former, nearly at the lowest ebb. 3^{dly}, The knotted sea-weed, (*Fucus Nodosus*, Lin.), or, as it is sometimes called, the bell-wrack, and here the yellow tang, which in general occupies the middle space between the low and high water marks. 4^{thly}, The jagged or serrated sea-weed, (*Fucus Serratus*, Lin.), commonly known by the name of prickly tang in this country. These four kinds of sub-marine plants, with some others of less consequence, are cut from the rocks in the summer season with hooks, carried up on barrows to the beach, where they are spread to dry, and are afterwards burnt into ashes. The kilns that are made use of for this purpose, are either erected with stones on the sand, or dug in the beach, of a circular form, and about 12 inches deep and 4 feet broad. In these they make holes for the free circulation of the air while they are burning, and after they have continued to burn till they imagine they have about one third of a tun of kelp, they begin to stir it strongly, or to rake it with a clumsy instrument of iron formed for the purpose. Much of the excellence of the kelp depends on the perfection of this operation. Great care must be taken to keep it free of sand, of stones, and of every sort of extra-

neous matter. The contents of the kiln must be made perfectly liquid, and somewhat resembling the metal in a furnace; and in this state it is sometimes very difficult to preserve it of the requisite purity. The liquid requires to be left in the pit to cool, which it generally does in about two days, when it congeals and hardens into a solid ponderous mass, which is broken and piled up on the shore, till an occasion occurs to ship it for the market. In a manufacture of so great importance as that of kelp, every attempt should be made to meliorate its quality. This, it is believed, may be done by cutting the sea-weeds somewhat earlier in the season, and allowing them to lie as short time on the shore to dry as possible, making the kilns so much larger as to burn a greater quantity of kelp at a time; and of such a construction as to prevent the intermixture of other materials, by raking it thoroughly into a liquid state, and by conveying it from the kilns, as soon as it is cold, to a store-house, to shelter it from the hurtful influence of the weather. To increase its quantity is also an object of importance, and to do it in some measure there is little difficulty. The plants on the rocks that afford this article, are seldom cut with sufficient care; they are burnt only every two or three years, when they might be burnt annually; too little attention has been bestowed on the cutting of tangle and red ware, and carrying it a-shore in nets and boats constructed for the purpose; nor has almost any person in this place attempted to extend the soil for these plants, by placing broad weighty stones, or even wrecked wood, on the shores, in convenient situations. Were these circumstances attended to, and the practice hinted at followed, our kelp shores, which yield at present so considerable a treasure, might nearly double the quantity. This parish produces every year about 120 tons, and,

and, trifling as this quantity may appear, it has a considerable influence on the condition of the people.

Population.—The number of our people, in 1755, was only 642, and amounts now to 730, consequently there is an increase of 88. The cause of this increased population, we are able to trace to the residence of a single proprietor. Among the people in a country parish, whose farms are small and whose tacks are only verbal, the residence of heritors, if they be men of sense and virtue, is of the greatest advantage. They silence disputes, and terminate any differences that may arise, by their authority; they set an example of industry, and by their smiles or their frowns, not only distinguish the deserving from the worthless, but reward the one, while they punish the other. Beyond all dispute, whatever promotes industry also promotes virtue; and whatever weakens vice and strengthens virtue, has an evident tendency to promote population. Besides these means, the proprietor alluded to has made use of others still more effectual. Finding, on his entry, a paucity of hands for executing his plans of improvement, he soon erected between 20 and 30 new houses, which are filled with young people that have married, and with families from other islands. These have almost all of them numerous families of children; and, what is a clear evidence of their vast increase is, that about 17 years ago the youngest child in the small district of Sound, was 13 years of age, and the same district contains now, at and below that age, about 70 children. As there has been no register of deaths kept here, we cannot compare the births and deaths together, in order to ascertain the extent of the increase; nor have the registers of the marriages and baptisms, on account of the last minister's infirm state of health for some time before his death, been brought down to the present period. From the

1781 to the 1790, both inclusive, however, the list of births and marriages is as follows :

	BIRTHS.			MARRIAGES.
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
1781	15	11	25	4
1782	10	11	21	2
1783	7	8	15	3
1784	7	9	16	2
1785	6	13	19	1
1786	13	12	25	1
1787	7	9	16	2
1788	8	9	17	5
1789	12	14	26	10
1790	9	12	21	11

As there is plenty of excellent peat in the parish, as the air is wholefome, and food is in tolerable abundance, the people live long; and, what is of far more consequence, they are, even at an advanced age, both vigorous and healthy. In proof of this, we may observe, that there are several above 90, some of whom work every day in boats and otherways; and that last harvest, which was no less long than rainy, some that were between 80 and 90 years of age, were employed constantly in the laborious task of shearing. To the same purpose it may be observed, that a gentleman of curiosity, some short time ago, wrote to a woman in this parish to know her age, as he had been informed it was uncommon; the woman was no less distinguished for her good sense than her veracity, and wrote him for answer, that she was born 1688. She specified many remarkable events, which she distinctly remembered; and concluded her letter by informing him, that although she was at that time 97, she had writ-

ten it without spectacles. To conclude, in order to give this parish the degree of prosperity of which it is capable, the heritors should reside on their estates, and by the combined influence of their money, their authority, and example, point out to them the road to happiness. The farms, which at present are too small, should be 2 or 3 of them joined into one; tacks of considerable length should be granted; the rents and feu-duties should not be paid in kind, but in money; and services of every sort should be abolished, with a view to induce men of substance and industry to become farmers. If, to these improvements, a better mode of agriculture were added, and were the people that could be spared from the making of kelp, and the cultivation of the ground, employed in fishing, and some beneficial manufacture, Shapinsay would soon raise her head high among her sister isles, and would not suffer by a comparison with almost any other island belonging to Scotland.

NUM.

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF LUSS.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF DUMBARTON.—SYNOD
OF GLASGOW AND AYR.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN STUART, Minister.

Situation, Extent, Erection, and Disjunctions.

THE parish of LUSS is situated in the county and presbytery of Dumbarton, and in the synod of Glasgow and Ayr. It is about $8\frac{1}{2}$ English miles long from S. to N. and from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 miles broad. It is bounded on the south by the parishes of Bonhill and Cardrofs; on the north by the parish of Arrochar; on the east by Lochlomond; and on the west by the parish of Row. It was formerly of great extent, reaching, on the west side of Lochlomond, from the one end of that lake to the other, and comprehending some of the lands on its east side, together with most of its islands.

By an act of the Privy Council, in the year 1621, the lands of Buchanan were disjoined from this parish, and annexed to that of Inchcalloch. About the year 1650, the lands of Auchindennan, Cameron, Stockrobert, and Tullichewen were disjoined from it, and annexed to the parish of Bonhill. In 1658, the lands of Arrochar were disjoined from it, and formed into a separate parish. But the lands
of

of Caldanach, Prestelloch, and Conglens, belonging once to the parish of Inchcalloch, are now annexed, *quoad omnia*, and the lands of Bannachrae, belonging properly to the parish of Row, are considered as annexed, *quoad sacra*, to that of Lufs.

Soil, Surface, Climate, Longevity, and Diseases.—The soil is in general light and gravelly, but in some parts there is good loam. The principal level land lies near Lochlomond, and chiefly where the rivers discharge themselves into it, formed probably in the course of ages, by the sand and soil carried down from the higher grounds by the torrents. Scarcely one twelfth of the surface is arable. The greatest part is hilly and mountainous. The climate is mild and temperate. Snow seldom lies many days on the low grounds. In severe winters, the degree of cold has been found to be considerably greater near Glasgow and Edinburgh than in this country. Hollies, and other plants in the hedges and gardens, have there been killed by the frost, when here they remained unhurt. The mountains and woods break the force of the winds in every direction; and the exhalations from that part of the lake which never freezes, may perhaps likewise serve to temper the atmosphere. The air, though often moist, is remarkably healthful. Many of the people live to a great age. The venerable list of old persons, in the little village of Lufs, in 1769, is well known *. A man who resided in it many

* Rev. Mr James Robertson, minister, aged	90
Mrs Robertson, his wife	86
Ann Sharp, their servant	94
Niel M'Naughtan, kirk-officer	86
Christian Gay, his wife	94
Walter Maclellan	90

Pennant's Tour in 1769, 4to. p. 225.

many years, died in February 1790, aged 96. In 1793, the following were living in it :

Hector Maclean, aged	—	—	—	91
Mary Macfarlane	—	—	—	88
Janet Walker	—	—	—	84
Elizabeth Macwattie	—	—	—	81
Margaret Macgregor	—	—	—	80
Duncan Gray	—	—	—	78
There is one woman in the parish aged	—	—	—	97

Some families in it seem to have a hereditary right to long life. There are two brothers and two sisters german in it, whose father was 96, and their mother 82 years old at their death, and whose ages, in 1793, when added together, made 310 years. The eldest of the brothers is still in good health, and has at present alive 3 sons and 4 daughters, 54 grandchildren, and 10 great-grand-children. In 1793, there were likewise 4 sisters german living in the parish, whose ages together made 312 years. The people are subject to few diseases. Fevers and consumptions are the most common. The former of these are generally imported from other parts, and spread by infection.

Lake and Prospects.—Lochlomond, either for extent, or variety and magnificence of scenery, is not perhaps to be equalled by any lake in Great Britain. Its beauties are so well known, and have already been so well described by others, as to make any new description of them unnecessary. There are several fine views of them to be seen from the high road on each side of it, and from the adjacent heights, each of which has its admirers. Those which are commonly reckoned best, are from the top of the highest hills in the

* See Pennant's Tours in 1769 and 1772, &c.

the islands of Inchtavanach and Inchmurren, the Strone-hill near Luss, and the point of Farkin; but, in order to have this last view in the greatest perfection, it is necessary to ascend considerably higher than the line of the road. Lochlomond is about 24 English miles long, in some parts above 7 miles broad, and contains above 20,000 acres of water. Its depth south from Luss seldom exceeds 20 fathoms, or 120 feet. North from that it is much greater. Opposite to the point of Farkin it is 66, and a little farther north 80 fathoms. For about a mile south from Tarbet it is, with little difference, 86 fathoms; but about two miles north from it, opposite to Alt-garv, it is 100 fathoms, which is probably the greatest depth of the lake. Beyond that its depth gradually diminishes to its north end. The north and deeper part of Lochlomond is never covered with ice; but south from Luss, in severe frosts, its surface has been so completely frozen, as to render it safe for men, and even for horses and loaded sleds, to go from each side to the different islands. It is remarkable, however, that part of the narrow sound between the islands of Inchtavanach and Inchconagan, the average depth of which no where exceeds two fathoms and a half, and where there is no perceptible current, yet was never known to freeze, not even in the year 1740. This, perhaps, may be owing to some springs rising there, fed by the adjacent high grounds. After great floods in winter, the surface of Lochlomond has been known to rise about 6 feet higher than it is after much drought in summer. Its average height above the level of the sea is 22 feet; but that it is now considerably higher than it once was, and is therefore gaining upon the ground, there is clear evidence. Across the channel of the river Falloch, at the north end of the lake, there are stones fixed at regular distances, once evidently intended for enabling passengers to step from one side to the

other, but now never covered with less than 4 or 5 feet depth of water. Near the middle of the Bay of Camstraddan, when the water is low, there is a heap of stones to be seen, where the Colquhoun's of Camstraddan are said to have once had their family residence. Camden, in his *Atlas Britannica*, describes an island as existing there in his day, in which there was a house and an orchard*. About 5 miles farther south, at a distance from the shore, there is another heap of stones, said to be the ruins of a church. A field opposite to it is still called *Ach-na-beaglais*, or the church-field. This rise of the surface of the lake, is probably owing to the sand and mud subsiding near the mouth of the Leven, and damming up the water.

Islands.—There are at present about 30 islands in Lochlomon, small and great. Most of them are finely wooded. Some of them are inhabited, and prove, at times, commodious asylums to the disordered in mind. Ten of them are considerable in size; four of these belong to the parish of Luss: 1st, *Inchtavanach* above three quarters of an English mile long, and about two furlongs and a half broad, contains 135 Scotch acres, of which 127 are under a good oak wood, which is moderately valued at 1000l: each cutting, once in 20 years. The remaining acres are outfield, and carry at times a good crop. The island is not at present inhabited. A monk is said, at a remote period, to have fixed his residence there, from whom it derives its name of *Inch-ta-vanach*, i. e. the island of the monk's house. A sweeter retirement, or more adapted for contemplation, he could not perhaps have chosen. 2dly, *Inchconagan*, situated on the east side of Inchtavanach, and separated from it only by a narrow sound, above

* See Pennant's Tour in 1772, 4to, p. 155.

above half a mile long, and about two furlongs and a half broad, contains 94 acres, which are all under a natural oak and fir wood. 3dly, *Inchmoan*, i. e. *the moss isle*, lying a little to the south of Inchconagan, about three quarters of a mile long and a quarter broad, contains 99 acres, mostly of moss, from which the village of Lufs and the neighbourhood are supplied with peats. 4thly, *Inchlonaig*, near a mile long, and above a quarter of a mile broad, contains 145 acres, 66 of which are under a natural wood of old yews. The whole island has for many years been kept as a deer park by the family of Lufs.

Phenomena.—Lochlomond has been long famed for three wonders, viz. *fish without fins*, *waves without wind*, and a *floating island*. Vipers, which abound in the islands, and are so far amphibious as to swim from one to another, are probably the *fish without fins*. A man of undoubted veracity, who lives in the village of Lufs, affirms that he has seen one of them attempt to get into a boat in which he was, and that it was instantly killed. A swelling *wave without any wind* perceptible at the time, is not peculiar to this lake. It may be observed, wherever there is a great extent of water, if a calm immediately succeeds a storm. But independent of any commotion in the atmosphere, at the time of the remarkable earthquake at Lisbon, in 1755, the water of Lochlomond rose suddenly some feet above its former level, and was otherwise uncommonly agitated; and some phenomena of this kind, observed at a remote period, may have been the *wonder* alluded to. A small island lying near the west shore of Inchconagan, is called *the Floating Island*. It is now, at least, fixed there; but that it may have once floated is credible. In that case, it must probably have been a mossy fragment, detached by the waves from the neighbouring isle of
Inch-

Ischmoan, and kept together by the matted roots of coarse grasses, gales, or Dutch myrtles, willows, &c. In a small lake in the Highlands of Perthshire, a *floating island* of this kind actually exists*.

Rivers.—There are 4 rivers in the parish, all of which discharge themselves into Lochlomond, but none of them are remarkable for size; 1st, The river *Froon*, which rises in Glenfroon, and enters into the lake near the south end of the parish. 2^{dly}, The river of *Finlask*. 3^{dly}, That of *Lusk*. And, 4^{thly}, That of *Douglask*, which forms a great part of the boundary between the parishes of Lusk and Arrochar.

Woods, &c.—There are 880 acres under natural wood. Of these there are about 700 almost entirely under oak woods, which have been usually cut down once in 20th years, and at last cutting produced about 14000 bolls of bark†. A cutting of the whole oak woods of that age, at an average of prices for 15 years past, may be valued at 7600*l*. They are of such extent as to admit of their being properly divided into 20 separate *hags* or parts, one of which may be cut every year. The cutting commences about the beginning of May, or as soon as the bark can be easily peeled, and must be over before the middle of July. Formerly there was little attention paid to the manner in which the work was performed, but now care is taken that the trees shall be all cut down and peeled close to the ground, so as to make the young shoots rise as much as possible directly from the earth, and acquire roots of their own, independent of those of the parent stock. For the same purpose, in rough and high grounds,

* See Pennant's Tour in 1772, 4to. part II. p. 18.

† The boll of bark contains 10 stones Dutch weight.

grounds, burning the heath, or any brush-wood which can be collected about the flocks, is found to have an excellent effect. After the woods are cut, they are, for 5 or 6 years, carefully preserved from cattle. At that period, at 10 or 12, and at 15 or 16 years of age, they are weeded or cleared from broom, briars, or whatever else is prejudicial to them, and properly thinned. The first weeding is much for the benefit of the wood, but makes no immediate returns to the proprietor. The hoops got at the second will bear about one fourth of the expence; and at the third, will do something more than clear the whole. Trees of every kind thrive in this country amazingly. An oak in the Bandry wood 96 years old, is 7 feet 3 inches in girth two feet above the ground; has in its trunk, which is 21 feet high, 45 solid feet of timber, and is computed to have 4 bolls of bark. Another oak near the house of Camstraddan, which is about 80 years old, is 7 feet 2 inches in girth two feet above the ground; has in its trunk 36 feet of solid timber, and is computed to have 2½ bolls of bark. But the trees of the greatest size in this parish are at Rosedoe. A yew tree there, at the height of 2½ feet above the ground is 12½ feet, and a fycamore, at the same height, 13½ feet in girth. Their age is uncertain.

The natural woods of this country consist of oak, ash, yew, holly, mountain ash, birch, hazel, aspen, alder, crab, hawthorn, and willows. Oaks thrive only in dry ground. Ashes abound on the banks of the lake and near rills of water. Yews are rarely found but in the islands. Hollies are scattered through the woods, and mountain ashes often grow in elevated situations. The remaining kinds are less valuable, and frequently, therefore, distinguished by the name of *barren timber*. The other indigenous plants are nearly the same as in other parts of the Highlands, in similar soils and situations.

sions. A few are to be found, which are usually considered as rare; as, *isoetes lacustris*, or quillwort; *subularia aquatica*, or awlwort; *alisma ranunculoides*, or lesser water plantain; *esmundia regalis*, or flowering fern; *lichen Burgefi*, or crowned lichen, &c.

Wild Animals.—The following is a list of the wild animals, observed for some years past in this part of the country. The names of such as are migratory, are distinguished by an asterisk (*) before them.

I. QUAD-

<i>Latin Name.</i>
<i>Cervus dama.</i> Lin.
<i>Cervus capreolus.</i> Lin.
<i>Canis vulpes.</i> Lin.
<i>Canis sylvestris.</i> Klein.
<i>Ursus meles.</i> Lin.
<i>Marces apicium.</i> Reiss.
<i>Muscula putorius.</i> Lin.
<i>Muscula vulgaris.</i> Klein.
<i>Muscula crassa.</i> Lin.
<i>Muscula lutra.</i> Lin.
<i>Lepus timidus.</i> Lin.
<i>Lepus hieme albus.</i> Forst.
<i>Mus rutilus.</i> Lin.
<i>Mus amphibi.</i> Lin.
<i>Mus sylvaticus.</i> Lin.
<i>Mus musculus.</i> Lin.
<i>Mus agrestis.</i> Lin.
<i>Sorex araneus.</i> Lin.
<i>Talpa europæa.</i> Lin.
<i>Erinaceus europæus.</i> Lin.
<i>Vesperugo murinus.</i> Lin.

I. QUADRUPEDS.

<i>English.</i>	<i>Scotch.</i>
Fallow deer	—
Roe	—
Fox	—
Wild cat	—
Badger	—
Pine martin	—
Polecat	—
Common weasel	—
Skot, or ermine	—
Oter	—
Common hare	—
Alpine, or white hare	—
Rat	—
Water rat	—
Field mouse	—
Common mouse	—
Short-tailed mouse	—
Foetid threew mouse	—
Mole	—
Urchin	—
Common bat.	—

Gaulic.

<i>Fiadh</i>
<i>Eurba</i>
<i>Sionnach, balgair</i>
<i>Cat fhiadhach</i>
<i>Brae</i>
<i>Targhan</i>
<i>Foclan</i>
<i>Near</i>
<i>Borran, dor-chla</i>
<i>Malgach</i>
<i>Manghach gheal</i>
<i>Radan</i>
<i>Radan uige</i>
<i>Luch</i>
<i>Dallag</i>
<i>Famh, air-reathach</i>
<i>Gráinnag</i>
<i>Lábhag, dala-hog.</i>

II. BIRDS.

Lalis Mamm.
Falco fulvus. Lin.
Falco onfragus. Lin.
Falco Haliaetus. Lin.
Falco milvus. Lin.
Falco buteo. Lin.
Falco acrygnofus. Lin.
Falco cyaneus. Lin.
Pygargus accipiter. Rall.
Falco tinunculus. Lin.
Falco subbuteo. Lin.
Falco nifus. Lin.
Strix orns. Lin.
Strix irdula. Lin.
Strix ulula. Lin.
Strix flammea. Lin.
Lanius excubitor. Lin.
Corvus corax. Lin.
Corvus frugilegus. Lin.
Corvus coraix. Lin.
Corvus pica. Lin.
Corvus glandaricu. Lin.
Corvus monedula. Lin.
Cuculus cabaorus

II. B I R D S.—Land-Birds.

<i>Engl.</i>	<i>Scotch.</i>
Ringtail eagle	Black eagle
Sea eagle	_____
Osprey	_____
Kite	Glaed
Common buzzard	_____
Moor buzzard	_____
Henbarries	_____
Ringtail	_____
Kestrel	_____
Hobby	_____
Sparrow hawk	_____
Long-eared owl	_____
Tawny owl	_____
Brown owl	Howlet
White owl	_____
Great snrike	_____
Raven	Cordy
Rook	Craw
Hooded crow	Hoody
Maggie	Piet
Jay	Jay-piet
Jackdaw	Daw
Cuckoo.	Gouk

Gaelic.
Tobair dhubh
Isleir
Isleir uige
Clannan-gabbhach, cronnan-fochaidh
Clannan
An t-ain fionn
Breid-ait-àin

Spir-fhog

Cumhachag, cailleach-oidhche
Caillach-oidhche glèid

Fithach
Greumhach, ròcas
Fionnag
Foghad
Sorlachag choille
Cuthag
Cuthag, cuthag

II. B I R D S.—LAND BIRDS.

Latin Names.
 Alcedo ippida. Lin.
 Certhia familiaris. Lin.
 Tetrax tetrax. Lin.
 Lagopus alpestris. Plinii. Reil. Syn.
 Tetrax lagopus. Lin.
 Tetrax perdix. Lin.
 Columba palumbus. Lin.
 Turdus pilaris. Gessner.
 Turdus musicus. Lin.
 Turdus iliacus. Lin.
 Turdus merula. Lin.
 Turdus torquatus. Lin.
 Sturnus cinclus. Lin.
 Ampelis garrulus. Lin.
 Loxia pyrrhula. Lin.
 Loxia chloris. Lin.
 Emberiza miliaria. Lin.
 Emberiza citrinella. Lin.
 Emberiza caesia. Lin.
 Emberiza hortensis. Lin.
 Pringilla caelebs. Lin.
 Pringilla monticola. Lin.

English.
 Kingfisher
 Creeper
 Black Cock
 Grouse
 Partridge
 Ring dove
 Fieldfare
 Thrush
 Redwing
 Black bird
 Ring ouzel
 Water ouzel
 Chatterer
 Bullfinch
 Greenfinch
 Common bunting
 Yellow hammer
 Reed sparrow
 Snow bunting
 Goldfinch
 Chaffinch
 Brambling

Scotch.

 Moor fowl
 Peritick
 Cuck-dow
 Fieldfare
 Maevie

 Water crow

 Bunting
 Yellow yeldring
 Snow fleck
 Gold finch
 Green linethwhite

Gaelic.

 Coileach dubh
 Coileach-ruadh
 Tarmachan
 Cearc-thomains
 Smidhan
 Liathuisg
 Smeòrach

 Leon dubh
 Dubh-chraige
 Gobha-uisge

 Garraan coille
 Gràlag-bhuachair
 Buidheag bheòchaidh

 Eas nàir b-fineachaidh

 Buidheag beòchaidh

Pringilla

II. B I R D S.—LAND-BIRDS.

<i>Latin Name.</i>	<i>English.</i>	<i>Scotch.</i>	<i>Gaelic.</i>
<i>Tringilla domestica.</i> Lin.	Sparrow	—	<i>Gealbhan</i>
<i>Linaria.</i> Gessner.	Linnnet	—	<i>Gealan-in</i>
* <i>Motacilla griseola.</i> Lin.	Fly catcher	—	—
<i>Alauda arvensis.</i> Lin.	Sky lark	—	<i>Uisgeag</i>
<i>Alauda arvensis.</i> Lin.	Wood lark	—	<i>Riabhag choille</i>
<i>Motacilla alba.</i> Lin.	Tit lark	—	<i>Riabhag mhònaidh</i>
<i>Motacilla flava.</i> Lin.	Yellow wagtail	—	<i>Breac-an-ill</i>
* <i>Motacilla phoeniceus.</i> Lin.	Red flart	—	—
<i>Motacilla rubecula.</i> Lin.	Red flart	—	<i>Ceann-dearg</i>
<i>Motacilla trochilus.</i> Lin.	Red breast	—	<i>Broinn-dearg</i>
<i>Motacilla regulus.</i> Lin.	Yellow wren	—	—
<i>Motacilla troglodytes.</i> Lin.	Golden crested wren	—	—
* <i>Motacilla Onanthe.</i> Lin.	Wren	—	<i>Dreathann</i>
* <i>Motacilla rubetra.</i> Lin.	Wheat-eat	—	—
<i>Motacilla rubicula.</i> Lin.	Whin-chat	—	—
* <i>Motacilla sylvia.</i> Lin.	Stone-chatter	—	<i>Cloichearan</i>
<i>Parus major.</i> Gessner.	White throat	—	—
<i>Parus caeruleus.</i> Gessner.	Great titmouse	—	—
<i>Parus ater.</i> Lin.	Blue titmouse	—	—
<i>Parus caudatus.</i> Gessner.	Colemouse	—	<i>Ox-eye</i>
* <i>Hirundo rustica.</i> Lin.	Longtailed titmouse	—	—
* <i>Hirundo rustica.</i> Lin.	Hogge swallow	—	—
* <i>Hirundo riparia.</i> Lin.	Sand martin	—	<i>Cailbheag chean-dubh</i>
			<i>Gobblan-gaioibh</i>
			<i>Gobblan-gainbhich</i>

- Latin Names.*
 * Hirundo apus. Lin.
 * Caprimulgus Europaeus. Lin.

- Latin Names.*
 * Ardea major. Lin.
 * Scolopax tuficola. Lin.
 * Scolopax gallinago. Lin.
 * Scolopax gallinula. Lin.
 * Tringa vaucluis. Lin.
 * Tringa hypoleucos. Lin.
 * Charadrius morinellus. Lin.
 * Haematopus ostralegus. Lin.
 * Rallus aquaticus. Lin.
 * Colymbus cristatus. Lin.
 * Colymbus minor. Brisson.
 * Colymbus auritus. Lin.
 * Alca Arctica. Lin.
 * Colymbus glacialis. Lin.
 * Colymbus immer. Lin.
 * Mergus bellatus. Brunnich.

II. B I R D S.—LAND-BIRDS.

English.
 Swift
 Goshawk

Scotch.

Gaelic.

WATER-FOWLS.

English.

Scotch.

Gaelic.

Heron
 Woodcock
 Common snipe
 Jack snipe
 Lapwing
 Common landpiper
 Dotterel
 Pied oyster-catcher
 Water Rail
 Great crested grebe
 Ducky grebe
 Little grebe
 Puffin
 Northern diver
 Imber
 Speckled diver

Teuchit, peckweep
 Sea-piet
 Tom-noddy
 Arran-ake

Corra riabach
Coblach coille.
Creaman Doin
Currag, adharcan-luachrach
Anadan mhintich
Gille-bride
Speg-rè-thin
Fachach
Bur-bhachail

II. BIRDS.—WATER-FOWLS.

<i>Latin Names.</i>	<i>English.</i>	<i>Scotch.</i>	<i>Gaelic.</i>
• <i>Columbus sepentrionalis.</i> Lin.	Red-throated diver	—	—
• <i>Larus canus.</i> Lin.	Common sea mall	Sea-maw	<i>Faileann</i>
• <i>Larus tridactylus.</i> Lin.	Tarrock	—	<i>Suirneal</i>
• <i>Larus minutus.</i> Lin.	Lesser tern	—	—
• <i>Mergus merganser.</i>	Goosander	—	<i>Sioiswiche</i>
• <i>Mergus ferrator.</i> Lin.	Red breasted goof.	—	—
• <i>Mergus albellus.</i> Lin.	ander	—	<i>Eala</i>
• <i>Anas Cygnus ferus.</i> Lin.	The finew	—	<i>Muir-gheadh</i>
• <i>Anas anser.</i> Lin.	Wild swan	—	—
• <i>Anas clangula.</i> Lin.	Wild goofe	—	<i>Laacha chinn uaine</i>
• <i>Anas boschas.</i> Lin.	Golden eye	Common wild duck	—
• <i>Anas ferina.</i> Lin.	Mallard	—	—
• <i>Anas penelop.</i> Lin.	Pochard	—	<i>Crann-laoha</i>
• <i>Anas crecca.</i> Lin.	Wigeon	—	—
• <i>Pelecanus Carbo.</i> Lin.	Teal	—	<i>Scarbh.</i>
• <i>Pelecanus graculus.</i> Lin.	Cormorant	Skart	—
	Shag	—	—

III. REPTILES.

<i>Latin Names.</i>	<i>English.</i>	<i>Scotch.</i>	<i>Gaelic.</i>
• <i>Rana temporaria.</i> Lin.	Frog	Paddock	<i>Loigean</i>
• <i>Rano bufo.</i> Lin.	Toad	Tead	<i>Loigean dubh</i>
• <i>Lacerta agilis.</i> Lin.	Scaly lizard	Alk	<i>Dearc-lacachair.</i>
			<i>Lacertus</i>

of Lust.

Latin Names:

Lacertus vulgaris. Lin.
Coleber Berus. Lin.
Anguis fragilis. Lin.

Lain Names.

Lampetra. Raii.
Murena anguilla. Lin.
Pleuronectes Leviniae
Perca fluviatilis. Lin.
Salmo Salar. Lin.
Salmo trutta. Lin.
Salmo Fario. Lin.
Salmo Alpina. Lin.
Salmo Lavareus. Lin.
Salvelinus. Raii.
Eloz Lucius. Lin.
Cyprinus Rutius. Lin.
Cyprinus Phoxinus. Lin.

III. REPTILES.

English.

**Brown lizard
Viper
Blind worm**

Scotch.

Adder

Gaelic

Walbair

IV. FISH.

English

**Lamprey
Ed.
Lechmond Bour.**

Scotch.

Lamper-cel

Gaelic.

Deala-tholl Fasgam

*Leabag
Muc-jachaidh, creagag wifeg
Bradhan
Gralag
Bireac
Tarragbeal
Pallag
Gobhlachan
Gnat-iagag*

Miom-iag.

† PENNANT.

Populations:

Population.—According to the returns made to Dr Webster in 1755, compared with the population in March 1793, the number of souls in this parish has decreased within these 40 years.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF LUSS.

SOULS, FAMILIES, SEXES, &c.

Population in 1755	978	Persons under 8 years of	
— in 1793	917	age - -	203
		— above that age	714
Decrease	61	Married persons	280
Number of families	182	Widowers - -	15
Males - - -	448	Widows - - -	36
Females - - -	469		

CONDITIONS, PROFESSIONS, &c.

Proprietors residing occasionally - -	1	Coopers - - -	4
Ditto non-residing - -	2	Corn-millers - -	3
Clergymen - - -	1	Lint-millers - -	1
Members of the Established Church	915	Flax-dressers - -	1
Seceders - - -	2	Weavers - - -	11
Schoolmasters - -	2	Tailors - - -	3
Scholars - - -	120	Shoemakers - -	4
Farmers - - -	76	Journeyman and apprentices to weavers, tailors, and shoemakers	18
Innkeepers and retailers of spirits, ale, &c.	9	Male-servants - -	38
Excise officers - -	1	Female-servants - -	47
Shopkeepers - - -	3	Poor - - -	10
Smiths - - -	2	Capital of their funds L.	150
Masons - - -	2	Annual income L.	37
Carpenters and joiners	7	Boats - - -	21
		Wheel-carriages - -	2
		Carts	

Carts 59 Ploughs * 57

EXTENT AND VALUE OF PROPERTY.

	A.	R.	F.
Number of Scotch acres arable	1538	0	26.20
in meadow	109	2	39.40
under pasture	14,873	3	31
woods	880	1	33
Total acres †	17,402	1	9.60
Length in English miles	-	-	8½
Average breadth in ditto	-	-	3½
Valued rent in Scotch money	L. 1500	0	0
Real rent in 1793, in Sterling ditto	1600	0	0

VALUE OF STOCK.

110 Draught horses	at L. 10 10 0 each	L. 1155	0	0
4 Carriage horses	— 30 0 0 —	120	0	0
6 Saddle horses	— 15 0 0 —	90	0	0
20 Best cattle	— 8 0 0 —	160	0	0
514 Inferior ditto	— 3 10 0 —	1799	0	0
1875 Best sheep	— 0 14 0 —	1312	10	0
5625 Inferior ditto	— 0 10 6 —	2953	2	6
8 Swine	— 0 15 0 —	6	0	0
Total value of stock		L. 7595	12	6

* Though the above number of ploughs is kept for the sake of convenience, a much smaller number would be sufficient for all the tillage of the parish.

† The number of acres, excepting in one farm, where they are computed from the produce and flock, is ascertained by actual surveys made in the years 1770 and 1776.

ANNUAL PRODUCE.

Crops.	Number of bolls down.	Produce per boll. B. F. P.	Total produce. B. F. P.	Price per boll. L. s. d.	Total value. L. s. d.
Oats	625	4 2 0	2812 2 0	0 15 2	2109 7 6
Bear	47	8 0 0	376 0 0	0 18 0	1338 8 0
Pease	25	5 2 0	137 2 0	0 16 0	1110 0 0
Potatoes	87	12 0 0	1044 0 0	0 9 0	1469 16 0
Flax	—	—	84	0 14 0	58 16 0
Meadow hay, or natural grafs	—	—	1320	0 10 0	220 6 8
Sown grafs	—	—	14430	0 0 6	360 15 0
Straw, at 3 s. 6 d. per boll, of corn and bear	—	—	—	—	1557 19 9
Pasture, at 2 l. per horse, 1 l. per cow, and 2 s. per sheep	—	—	—	—	1524 0 0
Annual produce of woods and plantations	—	—	—	—	400 0 0
Slate quarries	—	—	—	—	500 0 0
Total value of annual produce					L. 6649 8 11

TABLE

TABLE of MARRIAGES, BAPTISMS, AND BURIALS,

From 1700 to 1719.

Years.	Marriag.	Baptisms.		
		Males.	Fem.	Total.
1700	6	15	12	27
1701	6	15	9	24
1702	8	4	5	9
1703	9	13	4	17
1704	7	8	14	22
1705	9	17	17	34
1706	8	11	13	24
1707	10	9	9	18
1708	15	12	11	23
1709	7	21	16	37
1710	8	20	16	36
1711	12	19	5	24
1712	12	12	15	27
1713	8	16	21	37
1714	10	8	24	32
1715	6	17	18	35
1716	12	17	11	28
1717	7	15	9	24
1718	12	3	9	12
1719	9	13	11	24
Total number for 20 years preceding 1720 —	181	265	249	514
Annual average	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$

TABLE OF MARRIAGES, BAPTISMS, AND BURIALS,

From 1774 to 1793.

Years.	Marriag.	Baptisms.			Bur.
		Males.	Fem.	Total.	
1774	3	24	12	36	11
1775	11	20	14	34	12
1776	9	15	11	26	17
1777	9	17	13	30	10
1778	7	17	15	32	13
1779	10	16	10	26	5
1780	3	16	11	27	17
1781	12	15	14	29	17
1782	13	14	10	24	10
1783	5	14	16	30	10
1784	12	11	14	25	11
1785	11	15	14	29	12
1786	9	13	16	29	12
1787	11	12	9	21	7
1788	10	15	11	26	15
1789	4	14	17	31	11
1790	4	12	12	24	13
1791	4	13	21	34	12
1792	12	7	15	22	17
1793	11	15	13	28	8
Total number for 20 years preceding 1794	170	295	268	563	240
Annual average	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	12

From the foregoing table of marriages, baptisms, and burials, as recorded in the parish register, it appears that the population, for 20 years past, is not very different from what it was at the beginning of this century. About 35 years ago, upon the introduction of south country sheep, an union of farms took place, which, at the time, must have diminished

fixed the number a little. But that loss has since been more than compensated, by the additional hands employed in the slate-quarries and other works.

Agriculture, Produce, and Imports.—The principal crops are oats, bear or big, and potatoes. Pease and flax are likewise raised, but in smaller quantities. Upon some of the farms, artificial grasses have of late been cultivated with success. Oats, pease, and flax, are sown from the middle of March to the end of April, and bear from the end of April to the beginning of June. Potatoes are planted from the middle of April to the 10th of May. The crops are commonly reaped from the beginning of September to the beginning of October, and all got in before the middle of that month. But in unfavourable seasons, the harvest is sometimes not over till the 10th of November. The parish does not supply itself with meal. About 200 bolls are annually imported.

Horses and Black Cattle.—Few horses are bred in the parish. They are generally bought at the different markets, for the purposes of agriculture. Cows are mostly kept for the convenience of families. Besides maintaining the stock, however, a few calves are fattened every year for the butcher, and some young cattle are reared for sale.

Sheep.—The higher grounds are now stocked almost entirely with sheep, of which there are about 7500. They are all of the black-faced Linton kind, and kept almost entirely for breeding, for which the nature of the pasture is more adapted than for fattening. A breeding stock of 600 sheep, for taking care of which one good herd or shepherd is reckoned

known sufficient, commonly consists, at Whitsunday, of the following proportions :

Breeding ewes	-	-	-	-	500
Year old ewes, for supplying the place of older ewes	80				
Tups	-	-	-	-	20
					<hr/> 600

STATEMENT OF THE YEARLY EXPENCE OF MANAGING
A BREEDING STOCK OF 600 SHEEP.

To a herd's wages, paid commonly by the pasture of 60 sheep	-	-	L. 7 10 0
To his own and his dog's maintenance	6	10	0
To a grey plaid given him	-	6	0
			<hr/> L. 14 6 0
To the expence of smearing 140 of said stock	-	3	6 0
To ditto of shearing or <i>clipping</i> the whole of said stock	-	0	12 0
To ditto of gathering and bringing to market	-	1	10 0
To interest of stock, at 12 s. per head for the breeding ewes and tups, and 9 s. 6 d. for the year old ewes, being 376 l.	-	L. 18 16 0	
To rent	-	-	52 10 0
			<hr/> L. 90 5 0

AMOUNT OF THE ANNUAL SALES.

By 330 draft lambs, being the usual number for sale, after reserving the proportion necessary for maintaining the stock, losses, &c.— 300 of ditto sold at 4 l. 10 s. and 30 of the worst, called <i>stots</i> , at 2 l. 5 s. per clad score	L. 67 10 0
By 54 draft or <i>stock</i> ewes, at 6 s. 6 d.	17 11 0
	<hr/>
Carried forward	L. 85 1 0

Brought forward	L. 65	2	0
By 10 <i>geld</i> ewes, being such as either had not lambs, or lost them early, at 11 s.	5	10	0
By 6 old rams, at 12 s.	3	12	0
By 460 fleeces white, 10 to the stone, 46 stones, at 7 s.	16	2	0
By 140 fleeces laid, 7 to the stone, 20 stones, at 5 s.	5	0	0
	L. 115	5	0
Yearly expence	90	5	0
Neat profit	L. 25	0	0

The profit arising from such a stock, seems inadequate to the trouble and risk; but it is to be observed, that, in most sheep farms, there are some low arable and grass grounds, the produce of which, in estimating their value, is seldom taken into the account. Much depends upon the times, and much upon management. In the event of a severe winter or spring, the number of lambs for sale falls often one third short of the foregoing statement. The disease called *braxy*, is at times very destructive to them, though not nearly so much so of late, as when the grounds were first laid under sheep. It seldom attacks any but the lambs or *hogs*, i. e. yearlings. Wether lambs are more subject to it than ewe lambs, and the fastest and best frequently fall a sacrifice to it, when the lean escape. It is most fatal to them on a change of weather from frost to thaw, or thaw to frost, but especially during hoar frost. In open winters few suffer by it. Taking care that the pasture is neither too rich nor too poor, is reckoned the most effectual way of preventing it, and changing the pasture immediately, the most effectual way of curing it. With the view of preventing diseases, destroying vermin, defending

sending from rain, and preserving the wool, it is usual, about the beginning of November, to *lay* the rups and lambs, and a few of the weakest ewes, with tar and butter. For the the same purpose, many now *bathe* the rest of their sheep with a strong infusion of tobacco, broom tops, &c.

Farms, Rents, &c.—The size of the farms is various. In the lower part of the parish, where the principal dependence is upon grain and black cattle, besides the lands possessed immediately by the proprietors, there are 10 farms, containing from 50 to 164 acres, and paying from 20 l. to 80 l. Sterling of rent; and there are 54 smaller possessions, rented from 2 l. 10 s. to 20 l. There are likewise 12, which may be properly called *sheep farms*, containing from 222 to 2880 acres, mostly of hill pasture, and paying from 11 l. to 80 l. of yearly rent. The average rent of a sheep's pasture in the parish at present, (for which an acre and a half of hill ground is necessary), is from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d.; but on any lands which have been let of late, it is considerably higher. Upon two of these sheep farms, the smaller tenants have a common right of pasture to 6 or 7 horses; and there is one hill, consisting of 784 acres, which is laid mostly under sheep, and which is entirely in the hands of 11 of the smaller tenants, each of whom is entitled to keep there a certain proportion of cattle. Besides the said grain and sheep farms, there are several cottages, to which a garden, and sometimes an acre, or half an acre of land is annexed. The tenants of the smaller farms, as well as the cottagers, depend often more upon days labour, or some other employment, than upon the produce of any land they possess.

Wages, Provisions, Fuel, &c.—The common wages of men-servants are from 7 l. to 9 l. a year, with their maintenance;
of

of maid servants; from 3 l. to 4 l. The usual day's wages of men are from 8 d. to 10 d. with maintenance, and from 1 s. to 1 s. 3 d. without it; of women, 6 d. with it.—The price of provisions of every kind is very much regulated by the prices in Dumbarton and Greenock, which are the nearest market towns. For these 4 years past, oat meal has sold from 16 s. 6 d. to 20 s. per boll; the best lambs, weighing from 15 lb. to 18 lb. from 4 s. to 5 s.; a hen, from 10 d. to 1 s.; a chicken, from 3 d. to 4 d.; butter, at 12 s. the stone; cheese, from 4 s. 6 d. to 6 s. the stone.—Coals, including the freight from Glasgow or Scotstoun, cost from 6 s. 6 d. to 10 s. the cart, which should be 12 cwt. Peats and sticks are the common fuel, and not much less expensive.

State of Property, &c.—There are 3 heritors, one of whom resides occasionally. Sir JAMES COLQUHOUN of Lufs, Bart. is proprietor of far the greatest part of the lands in the parish. The family residence is about 3 miles south from Lufs, at *Rosede* or *Rosidow*, i. e. the black promontory or headland, a name which is not now very applicable to it, as it is finely wooded, and the black moss which once abounded there is now mostly converted into meadow. There is an excellent modern house there, which commands some noble views of the lake. It was built by the late Sir James Colquhoun, who resided in the parish for many years, the influence of whose authority and example, in checking all tendency to disorder, and in promoting the interests of virtue and religion, is still sensibly felt, and his memory, therefore, much and justly respected.

Minerals.—There are two slate quarries, one upon the estate of Camstraddan, and the other upon the estate of Lufs. From the former of these, for 5 years past, from 250,000

to 360,000 slates, and from the latter quarry, from 100,000 to 170,000 slates have been annually exported. Some of them were sent to Greenock, Glasgow, and Paisley, but the greater part to the banks of the Leven, and across Lochlomond to Stirlingshire. The slates are of an excellent quality, and were sold at from 1 l. 4 s. to 1 l. 15 s. the thousand. From 10 to 20 hands have been employed in the Camstraddan quarry, and about 10 in the other. Some of them work upon days wages; but the greater part by the piece. They commonly get at the rate of 15 s. per 1000, and it takes 1 s. 4 d. per 1000 to lead the slates from the quarry to the shore. In the south end of the parish there is likewise a very good free-stone quarry, from which the stones to the house of Rosedoe, and the other principal houses in the parish, have been taken; but it is only wrought occasionally.

Manufactures.—In 1790, a cotton-mill was erected near the village of Luss. It is of the size most suitable to the place, sufficiently large to give bread to such as might otherwise be in want of employment, but not to give encouragement to the vices which are so apt to abound, wherever a promiscuous multitude of people are assembled. From 30 to 40 hands, young and old, have been usually employed in it. Of late, owing to the general stagnation of trade, little work has been carried on in it. A thread manufacture, upon a small scale, is likewise carried on at Dunfin, near the south end of the parish.

Antiquities.—About a mile and a quarter south from Luss, there are the remains of a large *cairn*, or heap of stones, called *Carn-ma-chenfoig*, or, the *Cairn of St. Kessog*, who is said, at an early period, to have suffered death there, and

to have been buried in the church of Lufs. He was long revered, therefore, as the tutelar saint of the parish *. In the church-yard there are some stone coffins of considerable antiquity. Each of them consists of one entire stone, with a cavity cut out of it, fit for holding a dead body at its full length, and a stone lid for covering it. There is no inscription upon either of them.

Church †, &c.—The church is uncommonly good. It was built in 1771, by the late Sir James Colquhoun of Lufs, without laying any part of the burden upon the other heritors. The manse was built in 1740, is insufficient, and at present in need of repair. The living consists of 72 bolls of oat-meal, at the rate of 8½ stoncs per boll, 6 bolls of bear, 19*l*. 12*s*. 9½*d*. Sterling in money, and a good glebe. There is a process of augmentation at present depending. Sir James Colquhoun is patron of the parish.

Schools

* The high veneration in which the memory of this saint was held in early times, appears from a charter to John, Laird of Lufs, preserved in the chartulary of Lennox, which Robert, King of Scotland, confirms in the 10th year of his reign :

“*Quoniam hoc scriptum visuris, vel audituris, Malcolmus Comas de Lavenax, salutem in Christo. Noveritis nos ob reverentiam et honorem sanctissimi viri filii Kessogi patroni nostri Hecille, concessisse et hac præsente. Charta nostra confirmasse dilecto et fideli Bachulario nostro Domino Joanne de Lufs, et hæredibus suis quibuscunque talem libertatem, quod nos nec hæredes nostri prius captiones seu carriagia infra terras suas de Lufs, quas de nobis tenet hæreditarie capiemus. Concessimus similiter,* &c.

† The church of Lufs was one of the 6 churches within his diocese, which, in 1429, John Cameron, bishop of Glasgow, with the consent, and at the desire of their respective patrons, erected into prebendaries.

Schools and Poor.—There are two schools, for each of which a good house has been lately built. One of these is the parish school, in which the number of scholars is generally from 30 to 50. The salary is 10 l. Sterling. The school fees for reading English are 1 s. 6 d. per quarter; for reading and writing, 2 s.; for arithmetic, 2 s. 6 d.; and for Latin, 5 s. The other school is supported by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. The number of scholars who attend it, during the whole or part of the year, is about 80. The emoluments of the schoolmaster consist of 13 l. Sterling of salary, a dwelling house, garden, cow's grass, and some school fees. The children of the poor are taught gratis.

The Society have likewise of late allowed a salary for a sewing school at Lufs. The number of poor, at present upon the roll, is 10. Some of these get weekly, and others occasional supplies, according to their necessities. The funds for their support arise from the collections on Sunday, rents of seats in the church, marriage and mort-cloth dues, and the interest of 150 l. Sterling of stock, amounting, at an average, to 37 l. Sterling yearly. L. 50 of the said stock were bequeathed by the late Robert Carmichael, Esq; of Broomley.

Language and Character.—South from Lufs, English, and north from it the Gaelic, is the prevailing language. The service in church is performed in each of these.—The people, in general, are sober and industrious, humane and charitable. They are regular in their attendance on the ordinances of religion. The example, in this respect, of the families of chief rank for many years past, has, without doubt, had considerable influence upon those in inferior stations.

Roads,

Roads, Ale-houses, &c.—The roads have of late been much attended to, and are at present in good repair. In the 1786, an act of Parliament was obtained for converting the statute labour of this county into money, which has had good effects.—There are 9 licensed ale and whisky houses, and one inn. Four years ago there were 5 licensed stills for distilling whisky; now there is but one of 36 gallons.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The principal disadvantages, under which this parish labours, are the great expence of fuel, the scarcity of natural manures, and the high price of labour, and of every necessary of life, owing to the neighbourhood of so many great manufacturing concerns; but that neighbourhood, on the other hand, is a great advantage to such as have any articles to dispose of.

Hints for Improvements.—Woods in general, and oak woods in particular, are now become valuable every where, and especially upon the banks of Lochlomond. Whatever, therefore, relates to their improvement, must be well worthy the attention of every proprietor. An acre of oak wood here, at an average, is worth from 10 s. to 12 s. a year; which is a much greater return than could be had from as much ground of equal quality in any other way whatever.—The first great object to be attended to, is the inclosing the great body of the wood with a sufficient stone dyke. The temporary wooden fence, which is commonly raised round is every time it is cut, seldom lasts above 4 years, and often amounts to one third, sometimes to one half the expence of a stone wall. The wood thus inclosed should, as soon as circumstances will permit, be taken entirely into the proprietor's hands, whose interest it will be to encourage the natural growth of oak, ash, holly, and other valuable timber, and

to plant all the vacant spaces with trees suited to the soil. Oak woods are never entirely out of the reach of cattle, and they ought never, therefore, to be permitted to enter them. For 4 or 5 years, all agree they must be carefully preserved from them; and, after that time, if they are thriving, and the *fool* is sufficiently thick, the pasture in them is no object. As to the age at which an oak wood should be cut, there are different opinions. That there is a period, however, beyond which it should not be permitted to grow, cannot be doubted. After it is cut, the most vigorous shoots are always observed to spring from well rooted young stocks, from 3 to 6 inches in diameter. Some of these will grow the first year from 4 even to 7 feet in height, and near the ground will measure above half an inch in diameter. In proportion as the parent stocks are older and larger, the shoots are less vigorous, and when the stocks are 13 or 14 inches in diameter, there are either no young shoots at all, or they are very feeble. If the great object, therefore, be to produce, at stated periods, a quantity of bark for the market, it must be the ruin of a copse kept for that purpose to allow it all to grow very old. If in this country it exceeds much the usual period of 20 or 22 years, the bark becomes inferior in quality, and the *fool* will suffer more by age, than the additional value of the timber and bark can compensate. In order to make any oak wood, however, sell to advantage, it is necessary that there should be a certain proportion of timber of different sizes, as well as bark. At every cutting, therefore, it is usual to leave so many *standard* trees of different ages, for the benefit of future sales. These should always be healthy and vigorous, and either in the outer skirts of the wood, or in vacant spaces, where they are detached from other trees. When left without judgment in the thickest part of the wood, being deprived

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ved of their former shelter, they seldom thrive themselves, and by their drop and shade hurt all the young growth around them. Pruning or lopping off great branches from any of these ought carefully to be avoided. Though the scar may heal outwardly, yet it never fails to introduce rottenness, less or more, into the heart, which hurts the timber, and impairs the vigour of the tree.

As to the arable and best grass grounds, the inclosing them, as well as the woods, with a sufficient fence, is the first great improvement of which they are capable. Of what kind the fence should be, nature, if attended to, will seldom fail to direct. In high and exposed situations, hedges will not succeed; but there stones commonly abound. In the lower grounds, where stones are not plentiful, hawthorn hedges may be raised with advantage. But of all plants for this purpose, holly promises to answer best. Holly thrives every where in this country, as in its native soil; and it makes not only the most ornamental, but likewise the closest and the best of hedges. The time which it takes to raise the plants from the seed, and the expence of getting them from a nursery, is the great bar to the general use of them. That bar might here be easily removed; the hollies which grow wild in the woods, naturally lay their own branches, which, as soon as they touch the ground, freely take root. With a little assistance from art, a sufficient number of well rooted plants could soon be got, which might safely be transplanted at such an age as to make almost an immediate fence.

The having the whole lands of a country engrossed into a few hands, is certainly much against the public interest. Every man, however, who depends entirely upon the produce of his fields, ought to have, at least, as much land as is sufficient for affording himself and his family a comfortable subsistence

subsistence and constant employment ; and if he possesses any waste land, he ought to have sufficient encouragement from the proprietor for taking it into tillage, and improving it. When the case is otherwise, he is under a temptation of ruining his ground, by over-cropping it, one of the most prevailing errors in the present Highland system of farming. But the man, on the other hand, whose chief dependence is upon days labour, or some other employment, ought to have land sufficient only for supplying his family with milk, potatoes, and other necessaries, but not so much as to divert his attention from his proper business. Grazing farms, and especially sheep farms, must, from their nature, be on a greater scale. In them a great range, and a variety of pasture, are indispensibly necessary. As much as the state of property, therefore, will permit, their boundaries ought to be the great boundaries of nature. When the pasture of a hill or mountain is parcelled out among two or three different tenants, without any inaccessible gullies or rocks to form a line of separation, the cattle of each will be constantly trespassing somewhere, and therefore constantly chased from one part to another, so that neither will receive much benefit from it. Common pasture, in such a case, is seldom found to be a remedy for the evil. Whatever wise and just regulations may at first be laid down for fixing the proportion of cattle to be kept by each, they are never in fact adhered to ; and the ground is always overstocked.

The present breed of sheep in this parish may perhaps be changed with advantage. In every attempt of this kind, however, great caution is necessary. The trial should first be made with small parcels, and rather by the proprietors than by the tenants. Sheep are delicate animals, subject to many diseases, and when they are taken from one country to another, or even from one farm to another, it takes
some

some time before they are habituated to their new situation, and thrive in it. When a man takes a sheep farm, therefore, he endeavours, if possible, to purchase from the outgoing tenant the stock of sheep upon it, which he reckons at the rate of at least 2 s. a head more valuable to him than to any other.

Though the tenants are now more comfortably lodged than they once were, there is still, in that respect, room for improvement. In a country which abounds so much with slates, it may appear surprising that so few of the houses should be covered with them, though there can be no doubt, but in the issue, they would be found less expensive than any thatch which could be used. The great obstacle to the use of them for that purpose, at present, is the expence of the timber required. That obstacle, it is hoped, will in time be removed. When the extensive and thriving plantations, in different parts of the country, have grown up, timber will be more easily got.

All these improvements, however, are more wanted in many other parts than here, where some of them have already taken place. Within these 26 years, above 4000 l. Sterling have been laid out upon the estate of Lufs alone, in inclosing the woods and arable grounds with sufficient stone dykes and other fences, and in planting; not to speak of the sums expended upon other improvements. Within the same space of time, near 100 acres of waste land have been brought into tillage, and now produce tolerable crops.

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF SMALL ISLES.

(COUNTIES OF INVERNESS AND ARGYLE—PRESBYTERY
OF SKY.—SYNOD OF GLENELG).

By the Rev. Mr DONALD M'LEAN, Minister.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THIS parish consists of four islands, Eigg, Rum, Canniz, and Isle Muck. It was a part of the parish of Sleat, until the year 1726. At its erection into a separate charge, it was called the parish of Eigg, (it being the most valuable island, and that in which the minister resides), or Short Isles. In process of time, the name was, by an easy transition, changed from *Short* to *Small* Isles. Eigg is situated in the county of Inverness, the other three islands are in the county of Argyle. The parish is in the presbytery of Sky and synod of Glenelg. Eigg is between 4 and 5 miles in length, and from 2 to 3 in breadth. Through the middle of it there is a hallow, called, in Gaelic, *Eagg*, hence the island derives its name. It is computed to be about 8 miles west from the point of Arrisaig, the nearest part of the main land. Rum is situated about 5 computed miles W. N. W. from Eigg. It seems to derive its name from the Gaelic word *Rhum*, signifying extent, as it is the most extensive of these islands, being 8 miles long, 8 miles broad, and containing above 22,000 square acres. Canniz is 4 computed miles west from

fords the inhabitants a competent subsistence. 200,000
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ve 22,000 square acres. Cannon is 4 computed miles west
from

from Rùm, and is about 4 computed miles long, and one broad. Ille Muck lies about 4 miles W. S. W. from the nearest part of Eigg is between 2 and 3 miles in length, and one in breadth. This island is called in Gaelic, *Eilean nan Muchd*, which, literally translated, is, *Island of Swine*; hence Ille Muck, and Buchanan very properly calls it *Insula Porcorum*.

Appearance.—The island of Eigg is partly flat, but principally hilly and rocky. The hills are covered with heath, which, in some places, is mixed with coarse grass. Its low grounds are partly deep, partly shallow, and tolerably productive, where there is a depth of soil. Rùm is in general hilly, mountainous, and rocky, much fitter for pasture than crop. Canna is partly high, and partly low ground, the high good for pasture, and the low for crop. Ille Muck is pretty low, excepting one hill of no considerable height; its soil is in general good. The height of the Rùm hills alone seems worthy of notice, but for want of proper instruments, it cannot at present be ascertained. Of these the summits are almost wholly rocky and barren.

Vegetable and Animal Productions.—The parish produces, barley, oats, potatoes, flax, kails, and a few other garden stuffs in small quantities. In Canna, great oats answer pretty well; on Eigg, the cultivation of this grain has been attempted for two years past, but did not succeed. After it comes to the ear, it is lodged, and great part of it rots on the ground, owing to the frequent and heavy falls of rain. On barley and small oats, the rain has often a similar effect, though not in an equal degree. It is with reason believed, that green crops would answer better. The crop seldom affords the inhabitants a competent subsistence. For several

years past, a considerable quantity of meal has been annually imported, it having been necessary to feed their cattle with a great part of their own crop, during the winter season, especially when severe. The seed time begins about the first of April, and the harvest about the 12th of September. In Isle Muck the harvest is somewhat later, and yet the seed-time somewhat earlier. Last year, 1793, the crop was not all got in till near the end of November. The shores would produce about 50 tons kelp annual'y, if the season was very favourable, but the quantity must depend greatly upon the weather. The animals reared in the parish are hories, horned cattle, sheep, and a few goats. Hories are reared for sale in Rum only: They are hardy and high mettled, though of a small size. The horned cattle of Canna and Isle Muck grow to a considerable size, owing to the fineness of their grass; but, when carried to market, they are liable to a distemper called the *bloody urine*. which of course reduces their price. Most of the farmers in Eigg, and the principal tacksmen in Canna, rear a few of the smaller sort of sheep for the use of their families. One farm in Eigg was begun to be stocked with black faced sheep, about two years ago. They seem to multiply and thrive well. There are no sheep in Isle Muck. In Rum, there is a considerable number of small native sheep; their flesh is delicious, and their wool valuable. A quantity of it is sent yearly to the Redcastle market, near Inverness, where it often sells at 14s. the stone, while other wool sells about half that price. This island seems best calculated for rearing sheep, being almost wholly covered with hills and high mountains, but the proprietor's attachment to the inhabitants, has hitherto prevented its being stocked with *them only*. In Rum there were formerly great numbers of deer; there was also a copse of wood, that afforded cover to their fawn from birds of prey,

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particularly from the eagle: While the wood throve, the deer also throve; now that the wood is totally destroyed, the deer are extirpated. Before the use of fire arms, their method of killing deer was as follows: On each side of a glen, formed by two mountains, stone dykes were begun pretty high in the mountains, and carried to the lower part of the valley, always drawing nearer, till within 3 or 4 feet of each other. From this narrow pass, a circular space was inclosed by a stone wall, of a height sufficient to confine the deer; to this place they were pursued and destroyed. The vestige of one of these inclosures is still to be seen in Rum. In Canna, there are some wild rabbits of a greyish colour. In this parish rats abound; lately a remarkable one, purely white, has been killed in Eigg. It was the only rat of this appearance ever seen in the place. The amphibious animals are seals and otters; the blubber of the one is made into oil, and the skin of the other is sold for fur, at a price proportionate to its size; some of them have been sold for above 12 s. Sterling. Though the grown up seals feed at sea, they suckle their young on shore. There are two distinct species of seals, a smaller and a larger; the smaller brings forth its young about the middle of summer, and the larger about the middle of harvest. It is said the young are fully fat, and often killed, before they bring them into the sea. The principal kinds of fish caught upon these coasts are herrings, cod, and ling. The herrings are some years caught in Loch Serefort in Rum, during the month of August; but the inhabitants being ill provided in fishing materials, seldom catch a competency for their own families. The cod and ling are caught mostly on the coasts of Canna and Isle Muck, the fishing ground being most convenient to the harbours in these islands. They are exported to the Clyde market, and the ling sold from 3 l. to 3 l. 10 s. per 120 ling. The Cear-

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ban or sun-fish appear in May, and sometimes remain till July. Their liver alone is useful for making oil, some of them yielding 12 barrels. This oil is also most frequently exported to the Clyde market. Different other kinds of fishes are caught, of some benefit to the inhabitants; but it is unnecessary to particularise them here.—The land and sea birds in this parish are much the same with those in the neighbouring islands. Birds of prey are numerous; grouse are found in Rum and Eigg. There are some pigeons, and a few wild ducks. The puffins are found in considerable numbers, which, though sea fowls, lay and hatch sometimes at a great distance from the shore, even near the tops of high hills. Their young, before they leave the nest, are as large as the dam, transparent with fat, and delicious to the taste of many. It is believed, that the young puffin becomes so weighty with fat, as to be unable to take the wing and leave its nest: To remedy this inconvenience, the old puffin is said to administer sorrel, to extenuate, and render it fit for flying. It is, at any rate, a known fact, that sorrel is commonly found to grow near the puffin's nest. There is a small kind of black crow peculiar to Eigg, having its body, back, head, and neck, of a greyish blue colour, and seemingly of the size of a pigeon. In some of the high hills of Rum, ptarmigans are found. In respect of size, they are somewhat less than grouse; and, for security against birds of prey, they assume the colour of the ground; in cold seasons they are white as snow; in other seasons they are spotted white and blue, like the craggy cliffs among which they live. Here plovers are not numerous. There are a few curlews, snipes, and herons, with many other birds, of too little importance to be severally mentioned. Our migratory birds are rails, cuckows, woodcocks, swallows, arctic gulls, and

and solan geese. The periods of their arrival and departure are too well known to be insisted on.

Tides, Islands, and Harbours.—In general, the tide of flood sets north, the tide of ebb south; but it often varies, according to the situation of the coasts of the islands. On the south coast of Eigg, there is a small island, called Eillan Chastel, which is good for pasture, and a pendicle of a contiguous farm in Eigg. A few persons, tending cattle, live upon it during a part of the summer months only. The sound between this island and Eigg, makes a tolerable harbour for a few vessels not exceeding 70 tons. It has no great depth of water, and consequently, with spring tides, such vessels are apt to take the ground, the consequence of which, in severe weather, might be dangerous. This harbour is in the course of vessels from the point of Ardnamurchan to isle Oronsay in Sleat, opposite to Loch Urn, and nearly equidistant from the latter and Tobermory. There are two entrances to it, the one from the south-west, and the other from the north-east, in a line parallel to the above course, and so must be a good outlet for either of the aforesaid harbours. Within this harbour, a pier has been built by the inhabitants, for the security of fishing boats and small vessels, but on a plan not sufficiently extensive for accommodating vessels of the above mentioned size; besides that, it has been neglected for some time, and become in a manner ruinous. If a pier, properly planned to afford protection in case of storms, were built here, this harbour might facilitate the navigation of herring buffes, both north to the fishing, and south to the market. It lies in a central situation, between the two former harbours, and, if accommodated as above, might prevent buffes, when overtaken by contrary winds, or disagreeable weather, from driving back to either,
and

and thus be a means of bringing them to their destined port many days earlier. The only harbour in Rum is Loch Sreafort, on the east coast thereof. It bears east and west, and runs a considerable way into the island; it is easy of access, the entrance being pretty wide; there are some sunk rocks on the south side of the entrance. Between these rocks and the north side are about three fourths of its whole breadth, perfectly clear, affording sufficient room to tack in or out at pleasure. This harbour is only open to the eastward, and consequently there is seldom any great swell. It is spacious, its ground good, its depth of water from 5 to 7 fathoms, and is a good outlet either north or south. Near the head, and on the south side of this harbour, a pier was begun a few years since, which is still carried on, but not finished. This is sustained as statute labour. This harbour, to be frequented, needs only to be better known, as it is not only commodious in itself, but lies convenient for supplies of beef and mutton at a very moderate rate. On the south-east side of Canna lies the *Sand Island*, separated from the former by a very narrow sound, which ebbs dry for the greatest part of every tide, and at high water, fishing-boats can with difficulty pass through it. This island is valuable, and fit both for crop and pasture. It has 4 tenants on it, who hold of the proprietor, and pay about 60 l. rent. Between this island and Canna, lies the well known and much frequented harbour of that name. This harbour is safe, especially for ships of moderate size; it is, however, shallow and confined, and, without a favourable wind, it is difficult to enter or to leave it; and this inconvenience is increased by a large rock without the mouth of it, which is sometimes wholly under water. On the north west side of Isle Muck, lies *Eillean nan Each*, Island of Horses. Between them is a foul, rocky, narrow channel, which frequently ebbs dry. This island is of in-
considerable

considerable extent, but good for pasture. In Isle Muck there are a few creeks, which afford shelter to small boats; but no safe harbour for vessels. In two of these creeks are piers in an imperfect state.

Air and Climate —The air is generally moist, and the weather rainy. The southerly and westerly winds, which are the most frequent, are almost constantly attended with rain. It is remarked by the inhabitants, that the seasons are still becoming more and more rainy. For a few years past, even the winters have been attended with rain, instead of the usual snow and frost. The last summer and harvest, 1793, were much more rainy than any remembered, which is the more singular, as the weather was said to be very dry in the low lands of Scotland, and favourable even within 50 miles to the eastward. These rains make the grain crops precarious, and of little value, though they have, for some time, a promising appearance. The climate, however, is healthy; the causes may be, that there is no considerable body of stagnant waters; the good quality of the waters in most of these islands, and the pure sea air which the inhabitants always breathe.—The diseases, which most commonly appear in this parish, are the continued fever, croup, erysipelas, measles, catarrh, pleurisy, epilepsy, whooping cough, diarrhoea, dropsy of the belly, and jaundice. Of these the most fatal are the croup, pleurisy, and whooping cough. About two years ago, the croup proved very mortal, and swept away many children, some of them about 9 or 10 years of age.

Population.—For want of funds to support a session-clerk, there is no register either of births, deaths, or marriages kept in the parish; besides, a great number of the inhabitants are Roman Catholics, and do not fall under the cognizance of the

the parish minister; and if he were to keep such register, by law he is liable to a penalty, unless he should collect the taxes upon births marriages, &c. which, by many, is thought a grievance; and to evade the penalty, the registers are neglected. By a list, lately taken, it appears, that the number of inhabitants in this parish is as follows:

In Eigg	—	—	—	399
— Rum	—	—	—	443
— Canna	—	—	—	304
— Ille Muck	—	—	—	193

Total 1339

Of whom there are, under 10 years of age	327
— from 10 to 20	256
— from 20 to 50	534
— from 50 to 70	175
— from 70 to 90	42
— above 90	5

Total as before 1339

And of these there are, males	648
— females	691

1339

— Protestants	799
— Roman Catholics	540

1339

Four of the above are about 92 or 93 years of age, and one about 100. There are married couples, 240; widows, 48; widowers, 12; inhabited houses, 252; so that the number of married, widows, and widowers, is to the number

of

of unmarried as 2 to 3, and to the whole population, as 2 to 5 nearly; and the average number of each family is about 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. By a list of the inhabitants of this parish, taken by the late Mr M'Aikill, in the year 1768, there were at that period in Eigg, 501 souls; in Rum, 302; in Canna, 233, and in Isle Muck, 172, in all 1208, less than the present population by 131; to which, if the number of emigrants hereafter mentioned be added, the population seems to be greatly on the increase.

There are 8 male and 6 female weavers, 1 house-carpenter, and 5 boat-carpenters, 5 taylor, and 2 smiths. Most of these, besides their respective trades, spend a considerable part of their time in fishing, labouring, and other necessary occupations. There are few or no seamen, except those who follow the fishing during a part of the year. There are two merchants, who bring their goods from the Glasgow market. There is one clergyman of the Established church, one Roman Catholic priest, one surgeon, and one schoolmaster; all these have their residence in Eigg.

In Eigg, 8 tenants pay rent to the proprietors; in Canna, 5; in Isle Muck, 24; and in Rum, 43.

In the years 1788 and 1790, 183 souls emigrated from this parish to America, and 55 to the mainland of Scotland and to neighbouring islands; of these 176 left Eigg. A principal cause of this emigration was, that the country was overstocked with people, arising from frequent early marriages; of course, the lands were able to supply them but scantily with the necessaries of life. It is not unfrequent, upon these occasions, for a parent to divide with his newly married son, the pittance of land (sometimes a very small portion of a farm) possessed by him, which must reduce both to poverty and misery. Another cause of the emigration is,

that the island of Eigg, which was formerly in part rented by small tenants, was divided among 8 principal tacksmen.

Stones.—In various parts of the coast of Eigg, there are bodies of free stone, some of it too soft, and some of it sufficiently solid to bear the chissel; but hitherto it has been converted to no useful purpose that I know. On the N. W. side of the island, there is also a body of shelly limestone, yielding fine lime, and not difficult to burn; this, if fuel were plentiful, might afford excellent manure. In Rum, there is a kind of light red rock, which has an affinity to very hard free stone; it dresses well under the hammer, and is very fit for rough building. In one particular spot, it is found in pretty thin flags, not difficult to quarry, some of them about 5 feet square; some of them have been squared with the hammer, and floors paved with them to very good purpose. In this island, also, crystalline and pebble stones, not large in size, but of great solidity, are found. Glass has been cut by some of the crystals. The pebbles are of various colours, and admit of a very fine polish.

Inundations.—On the north side of Rum there is a rivulet, taking its rise in some of the highest mountains, which has often overflowed its banks, and, spreading over the valley through which it runs, done considerable damage to the growing corn, and swept along some of the peats cut in the neighbourhood.

Language.—The language, principally spoken, and universally understood, is Gaelic, and from it the names of places seem mostly to be derived; yet it must be confessed, that there are names of places, which the present inhabitants do not fully understand, that seem to be derived from a language

guage or languages to them unknown; but supposed to be Danish. Tradition says, that of old the islands forming this parish, had names sometimes given them different from those which they now bear: Thus Eigg was called *Eilan nan Banmore*, (the Island of the Great Women); Rum was called *Rioghachd na Forraiste Fiadhaich*, (the Kingdom of the Wild Forrest); Canna was called *An t-eilan tarfhuin*, (the Island lying across); and Isle Muck, *Tirr Chrainne*, (the Sow's Island). But these may be supposed poetical names, given by the Gaelic bards; and the superstitious are said to have used them, and them only, when at sea, and bound for these islands.

Rents and Heritors.—The rent of the parish is as follows: Eigg, kelp included, 343 l. 12 s. 3 d.—Canna, kelp included, about 240 l.—Rum, 209 l. 13 s. 6 d. Isle Muck, exclusive of the kelp, but including one third of the whole island under stock to the proprietor, and valued at an equal rate with the rest, 252 l. Total rent of the parish, 1044 l. 5 s. 9 d.—Three heritors have landed property in this parish, viz. John M'Donald of Clanrannald, Esq; whose property in this parish is Eigg and Canna; Major Alexander M'Lean of Coll, whose property in this parish is Rum; and Captain Lachlan M'Lean, proprietor of Isle Muck. None of these proprietors have their residence in the parish.

State of the Church.—The King is patron. The living, including manse and glebe, has been, since the augmentation in 1786, equal to about 90 l. a year. Of the stipends, 17 l. 18 s. 9 d. has been annually paid out of the teinds of Sleat, since the erection of this parish into a separate charge; now a process of reduction is carried on at the instance of the minister of Sleat, with a view to withdraw the foresaid portion

tion of the Sleat tēinds. The minister, weather permitting, officiates in Rum once a month; in Isle Muck, once a month; in Canna, once a quarter; and the rest of the time in Eigg. He must attend the meetings of presbytery at Sky, and of synod at Glenelg or Sky, and consequently cannot be above a third of his time at home. He must, at his own expence, keep a boat of a considerable size, and well rigged, always in readiness to transport him to these several islands, which must be a considerable diminution of his income. Donald M'Lean is now minister of this parish, who was admitted and settled in October 1787. His predecessors in office were Malcolm M'Askill, who died April 1787, and was admitted in 1757; and Donald M'Queen, the first minister of the parish as a separate charge, who was admitted in 1726, and translated to Uist in 1756. The present minister is married, has 3 sons and 2 daughters. A manse, for the first time, was built in Eigg in 1790, and a preaching-house in Eigg, for the first time also, in 1793.

State of the Poor.—The number of poor, on the kirk session roll, of the reformed religion, is 19, and those of the Roman Catholic, 20. They indiscriminately travel, and receive alms through the parish. There is no fixed fund, except about 30 s. a year given by Mr M'Lean of Coll, for the poor in Rum. The session fund consists only of a little money collected on Sabbaths, and of fines paid by delinquents. This money is, once a year, distributed among the poor of the reformed. The priest is left at liberty to uplift fines from delinquents of his own persuasion, and to apply them in a similar manner.

Prices of Provisions, Labour, &c.—Prices of provisions vary according to seasons. Imported oat meal has fold, during the

the last 5 years; from 15 s. to 20 s. each boll of 8 stone weight; the country meal, both oat and barley, from 14 s. to 20 s. the boll, containing 20 pecks, and each peck about 5½ Scotch pints. Potatoes sell between 2 s. to 3 s. the barrel. There is little or no beef or mutton sold by the weight, excepting in Canna, to seafaring people, who purchase it from 2 d. to 3 d. the lb. Butter sells from 12 s. to 14 s. and cheese about 5 s. the stone of 22 English pounds.

A labourer is hired at 1 s. a day, if he maintains himself, or 6 d. per day with victuals; carpenters from 8 d. to 1 s. with victuals; masons, about 2 s. without victuals; shoemakers, at 8 d. with victuals. Taylors are generally paid by the piece work. In a situation like this, it is difficult to ascertain the expence of a married common labourer in husbandry. The terms allowed them have no fixed standard. Many of them have one fourth of the crop they make with the plough, being generally barley and oats, and a third of the crop they make with the spade, and manure with sea-ware, which is principally potatoes, and grazing for two cows with their followers. This must afford them but a scanty subsistence, especially in years of scarcity, when they have a numerous family of weak children; but, with the aid derived from the shore, they are enabled to live. These are simply the wages of the man's personal labour, his wife giving no assistance, except a few weeks in harvest, to reap the crop. Single male servants in husbandry receive about 3 l. in money, what they wear of shoes, other perquisites, and their victuals. Other male domestic servants are allowed from 2 l. to 3 l. a year, with shoes and perquisites. Female domestic servants receive from 12 s. to 20 s. with shoes and several other perquisites. The average price of horses may be about 3 l. 10 s.; horned cattle, about 3 l.; sheep, about 4 s.

Fuel.—The fuel consists principally of peats, to which heath must be frequently added. In Eigg there is a competency of peats and heath; in Rum abundance; in Canna there is no heath for fuel, and their store of peats is not so abundant. Formerly Rum helped to supply Canna in peats, but of late years the island supplies itself, except a quantity of coal imported from the Clyde, by the principal tacksmen, and some peats, he now carries from the coast of Sky, for the use of his family. Ille Muck, within itself, is ill provided in fuel. Formerly they were provided in peats by Rum and Ardnamurchan; of late their supplies were solely from Rum, with much personal toil and danger. From Eigg, they import boat loads of heath, when their peats become scarce. In winter 1790 and 1791, there was a general scarcity of firing throughout this parish, which Ille Muck most severely felt. They were reduced to the necessity of burning different kinds of furniture, such as beds, dressers, stools, barrels; and also house timber, divots, tangles, straw, &c. to dress their victuals. Bringing heath from Eigg was a constant employment when the weather permitted,

Ploughs.—In Eigg there are 8 ploughs; in Canna and Sand Island, 7; in Ille Muck, 7; and in Rum, 2; but they labour all with the spade, except two small fields.

Antiquities and Curiosities.—There are several vestiges of ancient buildings, generally of a circular form, which tradition says were Danish forts. From their situation, the one being always in view of two others in opposite directions from it, they were more probably watch towers than places of strength. There are no barrows or tumuli in the parish, except one in Eigg, on the farm of Kiell Donnain, near an old Popish chapel, from which it lies at the distance of about

80 yards. It is said to be the burial place of Donna, the tutelary saint of Eigg; and it lies in a field of arable ground, and the thin flag covering the sepulchral urn, in which Donna's remains had been deposited, was some years ago exposed by the plough; upon which the urn, being a large round hollow stone, was taken up and examined, and found to contain a number of bones, but no skull appeared among them. It was again buried, at the distance of a few yards from the place where it formerly lay.

Among the curiosities of this parish is the Compass Hill in Canna. It is called Compass Hill, from its extraordinary effect upon the mariner's compass. When a compass is brought to a particular situation thereon, its needle is immediately reversed. The same effect is produced by a steep rock on the north side of the entrance of the harbour, when a compass is brought near it. In Rum is a well, called *Tobar Dearg*, (Red Well), the water of which is highly mineral; but very little used by the natives.

If basaltic pillars may be considered as a sufficient proof of volcanoes, many of them appear in Eigg and Canna. In Canna they appear far distant from the sea; in Eigg, not only near the sea, but near the top of its highest hills. Even Scure Eigg, the highest hill in that island, seems to be principally formed of a rock, having much of a basaltic appearance. Along the coast of Eigg, rocks are found remarkably light and porous, which renders it probable that they have been once tortured in the fire. Even places may be pointed out, where small portions of these rocks seem to have been formerly in a liquid state. There are several caves along the coasts of the different islands in this parish, some of which are not altogether unworthy of notice. On the S. W. side of Eigg, there is one called *Uamba Cbrabbuidh* (the Cave of Devotion), in which the Roman Catholic inhabitants were

were wont to attend mafs in time of the Reformation. Their altar is ftill to be feen. Its roof is irregularly arched; its height, at the entrance, about 60 feet; its length, 220 feet, and its breadth, 30 feet. Near the entrance of this cave, fome parts of the rock feem to have been once in a liquified ftate. At no great diftance eaft of this cave, is *Uamba Fbraine*, (the Cave of Francis) remarkable not only for its form, but alfo for the murder of the inhabitants of this ifland by Aliftair Crotach, Laird of M'Leod. The entrance of this cave is fo fmall, that a perfon muft creep on four for about 12 feet; it then becomes pretty capacious, its length being 213 feet, breadth 22, and height 17. With regard to the murder above mentioned, It is faid that fome of M'Leod's vaffals, returning from Glasgow, touched at the harbour of Eigg. Some Eigg women were then tending cattle in Eillean Chafteil, the finall ifland which forms this harbour. The ftrangers vifited, and maltreated the women. Their friends having got information, purfued and deftroyed thofe ftrangers. This treatment of his vaffals, M'Leod confidered as an infult, and came in force to revenge their death. The inhabitants, apprifed of their danger, flocked to this cave for concealment, excepting 3, who took other places of refuge, and a boat's crew then in Glasgow. M'Leod, after landing, having found no inhabitants, believed they had fled to the main-land, and refolved to return immediately to Sky. The people in the cave, impatient of their confinement, fent a fcout to reconnoitre, who imprudently fhewed himfelf upon an eminence, where he was readily obferved by the enemy, then actually under fail for Sky. Unfortunately for the inhabitants, there was new laid fnow upon the ground. M'Leod re-landed, and traced the fcout to the cave's mouth: He offered, upon delivering up to him the murderers of his people, to fpare the other inhabitants. The terms were re-
jected,

rested, upon which M^rLeod smoked them all to death. In the confined air of this cave, the bones are still pretty fresh, and some of the skulls entire, and the teeth in their sockets. About 40 skulls have been lately numbered here. It is probable a greater number was destroyed; if so, their neighbouring friends may have carried them off for burial in consecrated ground.

Seafaring, &c.—As to seafaring, the people appear fond of fishing only. They seldom enter on board the navy, unless compelled. There are but two decked vessels, of about 25 tons each. The number of fishing-boats is about 15, and of passage-boats 10, from 2 to 4 tons each. Eleven young men in Rum enlisted in the Breadalbane fencible regiment, in March 1793. In Eigg and Canna there was no recruiting carried on; and in Isle Muck, none enlisted, though requested by the proprietor.

Way of Living.—The people appear neither expensive nor luxurious. They live chiefly upon potatoes and herrings; and among the more opulent tackmen, a dish of tea and a dram of whisky are their greatest luxuries.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The healthy situation of the parish, and the fishing grounds near its coasts are among its greatest advantages. Eigg seems pretty equally divided as to crop and pasture grounds, and, in plentiful seasons, should maintain its present inhabitants. Canna, Isle Muck, and Rum, are not inconveniently situated, mutually to assist each other, if a plan proper for this purpose were adopted. Rum might help the summer grazing of Canna and Isle Muck, and render their cattle fitter for market. Canna and Isle Muck might afford a surplus of crop to supply the inha-

bitants of Rùm. In the former islands fuel is scarce; in the latter, moss is plentiful. Indeed the people of Lìe Muck get a great part of their fuel, and summer grass for their horses, in Rùm, as a gratuity, during pleasure, from its proprietor to the proprietor of Lìe Muck, who is a cadet of his family. Some benefit may result to Canna from its harbour, which is much frequented by the trade from the Baltic and its neighbourhood. It might be expected that Rùm would largely share in this benefit, if its harbour was generally known.

The disadvantages of this parish are not few. In this extensive parish, consisting of so many islands, where the navigation is tedious and dangerous, especially to the islands more remote from the clergyman's residence; the distance from the harbour of Eigg to the harbour of Canna, being computed 20 miles; to that of Rùm 16, and to that of Lìe Muck, 6 miles: His attendance on each cannot be so frequent, nor his labours so beneficial, as their wants necessarily require. Notwithstanding his exertions, the people must be liable to a seduction into a superstition, subversive of morality and of genuine piety; and the more so, as its emissaries, now tolerated by law, traffic among them without controul. Hence the necessity of establishing a mission in two of these islands is thought evident. The want of schools is another disadvantage. The ambulatory school, once established in this parish, by the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge, was removed in Summer 1792. Till summer 1793, a parochial school was never obtained: It is now fixed in Eigg, and the only one in the parish. From this school, children in the other islands, especially the poorer sort, can derive no benefit. Ignorance must be the consequence, and they may not only be an easy prey to seducers, but worse qualified to act their part as useful members of society.

ciety. To obviate this grievance, a school, if practicable, should be established in each island. Another inconvenience arises from the want of a post office, in a proper situation, on the opposite continent. The nearest post-town is Fort William. From Fort William to Ardnafouran is about 40 computed miles; from Ardnafouran, the nearest stage to Eigg, is about 11 miles over water. A post-office at Ardnafouran, and a packet between Arisaig and Uist, to call at Eigg and Canna, would prove highly beneficial, in facilitating the intercourse between these islands and the continent.

The salt laws are an object of great complaint in this parish, as well as in its neighbourhood. The late alterations in these laws have facilitated the getting, at a moderate rate, salt for curing fish; but still the custom-house forms, to which every purchaser of such salt must submit, may be considered as a real grievance. If a person wishes to procure 2 or 3 barrels of such salt, to cure fish for the use of his family, he must enter it in a custom-house, if it should be 50 miles distant; he must grant bond and security for it. The fish salted therewith, he must proceed with to a custom-house, however distant; there he must unship and repack it, and all this trouble and expence for a few barrels for his own family use. Such a grievance evidently needs a remedy. There are other purposes, also, for which salt is indispensibly necessary. The lower class, who are the bulk of the people, are often at a loss for this necessary article of life, from the severity of the present salt laws. They will have it on the easiest terms possible, whatever be the means; and the difficulty of obtaining it in a fair, encourages an illicit trade.

Another disadvantage, under which the parish lies, is its great distance from public markets, both by land and water. This circumstance renders it necessary to sell their cattle to
private

private dealers, who in general think it their interest, to appreciate advantages arising from local situation.

The state of the roads, too, in this parish, may be considered as a disadvantage. The roads are almost in a state of nature. All the statute labour, performed in the different Islands, has been directed towards the building of piers, for the accommodation of fishing boats, and vessels of an inferior size. And even these piers, it must be acknowledged, have not been conducted on a plan the most liberal and useful, nor has any of them hitherto been carried to perfection. In the county of Inverness, of which Eigg is a pendicle, former acts of Parliament, requiring statute labour, it was found difficult to render effectual; but it is expected, that the act obtained last session of Parliament may have a happier effect, and that proper attention shall be paid to our roads. There is not a bridge in the whole parish, yet it is obvious, that small ones are absolutely necessary in Eigg and Rum, as several of our waters become often dangerous, and even impassible, by heavy falls of rain, and melting of snow.

In this parish, a spirit of discontent seems much to prevail. Many complain of their rents, and many of their want of schools, besides other inconveniencies already suggested. The sources of redress are obvious.

Postscript.—In the neighbourhood of the Compass Hill in Canna, already mentioned, another has been very lately discovered, that produces similar effects upon the mariner's compass; and it is probable other places of the same nature might be discovered.

In Canna, there is a great deal of the rock called Plumb-pudding-rock, and that in some places connected with the basaltic rock. A singular instance of this, is a steep and lofty

of rock, called *Gerraudan*, on the top of which a small sub-
 nous building remains. Not many yards distant from this is
 a rock of the plumb-pudding kind, which is sometimes sur-
 rounded by the sea. The side of it next the rock is nearly
 perpendicular. In this side of the rock, considerably above
 the level of the sea, there is, in a horizontal position, the
 remains of a tree, nearly in a putrid state, apparently form-
 ing a part of the solid rock, and having at least 5 or 6 fa-
 thoms of the rock above it. There is no room to doubt
 that it has been wood, and its fibres have a near resemblance
 to those of oak. Its situation makes it one of the greatest
 curiosities discovered in any country.

Among the grievances of this parish, may be ranked,
 that they never yet had a justice of the peace in it.

In the course of the last 20 years, the dress in this parish,
 as well as the neighbourhood, both of men and women, has
 undergone a very considerable change. The men in general
 wear hats, short jackets, and long trowsers; instead of ben-
 nets, short coats, and philabegs; and instead of the tartan
 short hole, stockings are pretty much used. The kerchief,
 formerly worn by married women, and the tonnac, or short
 plaid, worn by females in general, are now almost wholly
 out of use. Instead of these, caps of various fashions, short
 and long cloaks, great coats, and ribbands, have been substi-
 tuted. The men, such of them especially as follow the fish-
 ing, find the change in their dress highly convenient, and it
 may be presumed that they borrowed it from the seafaring
 people, who frequented these isles. Some people think that
 it was introduced by the Highlanders, who served in the last
 American war. The change in the dress of the women
 may be thus accounted for: Most of our young women go
 to the low country for some weeks in harvest; this time
 they spend in shearing; and with the money thus earned,
 they

they endeavour to dress themselves after the low country fashion; the fashion, thus introduced, raises an emulation among the women in general, and, of course, merchants are encouraged to import like articles. The periodical migration of our young women to the low country in harvest, is entirely with a view to dress. They seldom bring home any share of the price of their labour in cash, and they are a mean of encouraging an extravagance of dress. So intent are they on this object, that from Whitsunday to Martinmas, they will not accept of service at home; and, except the few weeks spent in the low country, they are a burden to their friends for this half year. If manufactures, particularly the woollen, were established among us, our young women might find constant employment at home, mutually advantageous to themselves and to the public.

In this parish there may be about 1100 cows, about 540 stirks, and 500 two year olds.

NUM-

NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF BOTHKENNAR.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF STIRLING.—SYNOD OF
PERTH AND STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr DAVID DICKSON, Minister.

Situation, Extent, &c.

THE writer of this account has not been able to discover the origin of the name Bothkennar. This parish is situated in that track of country commonly called the Carle of Falkirk; is about a mile and a half in length, and nearly of equal breadth. It is bounded on the north by the parish of Airth; on the west, by the parish of Larbert; on the south, by the parishes of Falkirk and Polmont; and on the east, by the river Forth. It seems antiently to have been bounded on the south by the river Carron, but that river having changed its course, now intersects both the parishes of Bothkennar and Falkirk, leaving part of the former on the south, and a small part of the latter upon the north side of it. The parish contains 96 oxgangs of land, which, at the computation of 13 acres each, amount in whole to 1248; the yearly valuation of which, including cess, feu-duty payable to the family of Marr, and minister's stipend, is 3591 L 12 s. 6d. Scotch. The real rent of the parish cannot be so exactly

exactly ascertained, as it may vary according to the value of the ground, or the date of the leases; at a medium, it may be reckoned at least at 2 l. 5 s. per acre, which would amount to 2808 l. Sterling; and when the price of grain is high, it may be considerably more.

Soil, Produce, &c.—The soil is mostly of a deep clay, and the land, which is believed to have been antiently covered by the waters of the neighbouring Frith, is, in general, very rich, and produces plentiful crops of oats, pease, and beans, barley, wheat, grass, and potatoes. Mr Nimmo, in his history of Stirlingshire, informs us, that as early as the 14th century, (when, in comparison, little improvement had been made in agriculture), the yearly feu duty paid to the Crown, out of the parish of Bothkennar alone, was no less than 26 bidders of victual, besides 6 chalders paid to the Abbey of Cambuskenneth. About that time, or probably at a later period, the price of grain was so very low, that the proprietors of land in the parishes of Airth and Bothkennar, had it in their option, when paying the feu-duty, to pay either a merk Scotch or a boll of wheat. The former wisely chose to pay in money, which they still do; and the latter in grain, which, instead of a merk Scotch, has, for many years past, been equal in value to 26 s. 2½ s. or sometimes even 30 s. Sterling. This parish is almost a continued flat; there is scarcely the least rising ground to be observed through the whole of it, and not a stone to be seen, unless brought from other places. Excepting the roads, there is not a spot of ground uncultivated. The method of cultivation, the time of sowing and reaping, the wages of servants, tradesmen, and day-labourers, the prices of coal, grain, and provisions, are in general nearly the same as in the parishes of Airth and Polmont, to the statistical accounts of which the reader is
here

here referred. There are 12 orchards in this parish, the largest of which is about 3 acres in extent. They produce chiefly apples and pears, and, in good fruit seasons, bring the proprietors a plentiful return.

Population, &c.—According to a list of the inhabitants, taken by the present minister in 1783, the number of souls was then about 730; but since that time it has considerably decreased, owing, among other causes, to the shipping having been, in a great measure, removed from Carron shore to Grangemouth, on which account, several houses in this parish have been taken down, and others are left without inhabitants. In the year 1793, another list was taken, from which it appears, that there are now only 144 families, and in all about 600 inhabitants, of whom 303 are males, and 297 females; 164 married, and 436 unmarried; among which last, 45 are widowers and widows, and 133 children below 10 years of age. The number of marriages, baptisms, and burials, for the last 10 years, according to the parish register, which, during that time, has been very regularly kept, is as follows:

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>	<i>Baptisms.</i>	<i>Burials.</i>
1783	5	21	15
1784	2	23	9
1785	8	12	7
1786	2	20	9
1787	6	23	10
1788	7	17	16
1789	8	23	10
1790	12	10	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	50	149	85

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>	<i>Baptisms.</i>	<i>Burials.</i>
	50	149	85
1791	5	23	7
1792	5	11	15
	<hr/> 60	<hr/> 183, of which 101 males, and 82 fe- males.	<hr/> 107, of which 57 males, and 50 fe- males.

There are 38 farmers, and about 86 servants, 2 masons, 3 wrights, 2 journeymen and apprentices ditto, 3 coopers, 3 weavers, 1 journeyman ditto, 3 shoemakers, and 1 cobbler, 2 tailors, 6 smiths, 3 innkeepers, 1 baker, and 1 apprentice ditto, 1 barber, 1 excise officer, 8 shipmasters, 6 sailors, 3 carpenters, and 10 day-labourers; 1 clergyman, 2 students, and 1 schoolmaster. The people, in general, attend the Established Church; of those who do not, there are about 9 Burghers, an equal number who are connected with the Relief congregation in Falkirk, 8 Antiburghers, 2 Cameronians, and 2 Episcopalians. The inhabitants are, for the most part, sober, industrious, and kindly affectioned one to another, maintaining a decent and becoming respect to the ordinances of religion; whilst, among the few dissenters from the Established Church, there is very little of that narrow bigotted spirit, for which the sectaries in other corners have been too frequently blamed.

Climate, &c.—Notwithstanding the low situation, the climate is uncommonly healthy. It is observed to be even more so than the higher ground in the adjacent parishes. As a proof of its salubrity, among those who have died within the last 10 years, 11 were above 60; 14 above 70; 5, 80 and upwards; and 1 above 90. At present there are living in the parish 23 between 60 and 70; 9, 70 and upwards; and 4 above 80. The most prevalent diseases are rheumatism

tism and hysteric complaints. The former may be owing to many of the houses having only earthen floors; the causes of the latter, we leave to men of medical knowledge to determine. The ague, which about 30 years ago was very frequent, is now scarcely known, which may be attributed partly to the ditches being kept more open, and partly to the different manner of living. The frequent breezes from the Frith may contribute not a little to the health of the inhabitants; and some have supposed, that even the smoke from Carron Work, though in other respects disagreeable, may serve to dispel those noxious vapours, which, in other places, particularly in low countries, are often so prejudicial. Inoculation for the small-pox is still far from being general; but, when practised, has almost universally been attended with success.

Church, Manse, &c.—The church was rebuilt in a modern form, in the year 1789, and is now a very neat place of worship, sufficient to accommodate 5 or 600 people easily. The manse and office houses are at present repairing at a very considerable expence. The glebe is about 4 acres of very good land. The stipend, partly in money, and partly in victual, is generally about 100*l.* Sterling. There have been only 4 presbyterian ministers in this parish since Episcopacy was abolished. The first, viz. Mr Lindsay, afterwards translated to Perth, was settled here in 1721-2; was succeeded by Mr Penman, in 1744; after him, Mr Nimmo, author of the History of Stirlingshire, was ordained in 1765. The present minister was admitted in July 1783. The hearers are 22 in number, of whom only 10 reside within the bounds of the parish. The principal are, Lord Dundas of Aske, Mr Ogilvie of Gairdoch, and the heirs of the late much respected General Thomas Dundas of Carronhall, all

of

of whom are non-resident. The patronage belongs to the family of Airth, who have always exercised that right in a manner that does them the highest honour. The late Mr Graham, who had a particular pleasure in promoting the happiness of those around him, (although not a member of the Established Presbyterian Church), was accustomed to indulge the people with the choice of their own pastors; by doing so, he obtained just and universal esteem while he lived, and on this account his memory will long be highly respected. If other patrons were of the same disposition, the law of patronage, so long complained of, would cease from being a grievance; and instead of that frequent discord and animosity, which are so destructive to the civil and religious interests of our country, peace and harmony would every where prevail.

School and Poor.—There is only one school in this parish, at which 50 or 60 children are yearly taught English, writing, arithmetic, Latin, Greek, &c. The schoolmaster has a house and small garden. His salary is only 100 merks Scotch, which, together with voluntary contributions from some of the heritors, his school wages, and perquisites as session-clerk, scarcely exceed 20 l. Sterling *per annum*. It is much to be wished, that, in this age of liberality and improvement, something were done for the encouragement of schoolmasters, many of whom, having families to support, must often be straitened to obtain even the necessaries of life. —The poor in the parish are not allowed to beg from door to door. The number upon the Session roll is at present 7, who receive a weekly allowance, besides a few who get occasional supply. They are supported by the weekly collections, with the interest of 130 l. Sterling, which together amount at an average, for 10 years past, to 34 l. 10 s. yearly.

A few poor scholars also have their school wages and books paid from the same fund.

Roads and Improvements.—The roads in this parish, which old people remember to have been once scarcely passable, are now in general good, unless for a short time during the winter, when the ground is very wet, or when covered with water, owing to the tide and land floods meeting together. Within these few years, a considerable extent of ground has been gained in this parish and neighbourhood from the Frith, which, though defended at a great expence, will soon become a valuable acquisition to its possessors. There is a bridge soon to be built over the river Carron, a little above Grangemouth, and a new road to be carried from thence across this parish, towards Alloa and Stirling, which are likely to be of great advantage to the inhabitants, and will open a nearer and more agreeable communication both to the north and south.

NUM-

NUMBER XX.

PARISH OF WHITEBURN.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW.—SYNOD
OF LOTHIAN AND TWEERDALE.)

Written in 1793.

Name.

WHITEBURN, now commonly written and pronounced *Whitburn*, according to some, took its name from a considerable number of families, of the name of White, living along the side of a burn or rivulet, which runs through great part of the parish; but more probably from being near another of the name of *Blackburn*.

Extent.—The parish is about 6 miles long, and, at an average, between 2 and 3 broad. It is bounded, on the east, by Livingston; on the west by Shotts, and part of Cambusnethan; on the south, by West Calder; and on the north, by Bathgate and part of Shotts.

Situation and Surface.—This parish is in the county and presbytery of Linlithgow, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. The soil is generally what may be called loam, inclining to clay; and, in some places, having a mixture of moss, with a strong clay or till bottom.

Towards

Towards the middle of the west end, there is a high ridge about two and a half miles long, and, in some places, above a mile broad, of very deep barren moss, part of which, however, is known to contain a valuable seam of coal; and preparations are now making to have it wrought. The same seam of coal has been wrought for above seventy years past, at Burnhar, in the adjoining parish of Shotts, and still continues working; having now approached within a few hundred yards of the boundaries of Whiteburn parish. The parish is chiefly under tillage; a few black cattle being pastured upon particular spots of almost every farm.

Climate and Diseases.—The climate is damp and cold, though not unhealthy. Rheumatism, slow nervous fevers, and consumptions, are, perhaps, the most general diseases. Instances of longevity are not unfrequent. Several persons, within the last 50 years, have died upwards of 90; and at present there are some living between 80 and 90. The small-pox is not remarkably mortal here, though inoculation is extremely little in use. The few instances, however, where it has been practised, have been always successful, no person in the parish recollecting a fatal experiment of this kind; but still the prejudices of the common people are inveterate against this salutary practice.

Rivers.—Almond water runs through the north part of the parish, and Breich water along the south side of it. The canal proposed to be cut between Edinburgh and Glasgow, must be carried through at least a part of the parish. The whole parish is well supplied with good wholesome water, from springs in almost every quarter of it.

Horses,

Horses, Sheep, &c.—There are about 200 horses in the parish, and but very few sheep, of late years, since the grounds have been mostly inclosed and tilled. A good many horses and black cattle are bred for sale.

Population.—The population of the parish is certainly increased within these 40 years. In 1755, it amounted to 1121 souls. Last year, when a pretty exact account of the numbers of the parish was taken, they were found to be 1322 souls. When the first calculation was made, there was no village in the parish: At present there is a village, which contains about 500 souls. But the cot-houses, which were formerly scattered through the parish, are now almost all demolished, and those who possessed them have removed to the village. A person who has resided long in a public station in the parish, remarks, that not above a third part of the present heads of families are natives of the place.

Extent of Farms.—There has been little alteration in the extent of farms for the last 50 years.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.—The number of births cannot be given with precision; but they are computed about 30 yearly. The burials are about 24 in the year; but some bury in West-Calder, and some few in Livingston.—The marriages are from 12 to 15 annually. A great proportion of them is irregular.

Rent of the Parish.—The valued rent of the parish is 4244 l. 2 s. 11 d. Scots; the real rent is about 1800 l. or 2000 l. Sterling. The rent of farms is in general from 7 s. 6 d. to 20 s. per acre, according as they lie nearer to, or more remote from,

from the high road. The rent of houses in the village is about 20 s. in the year.

Proprietors, Tenants, &c.—There are only two considerable proprietors in the parish. Eight possess property from 50 l. to 150 l. a-year; and there are about 16 portioners. Of the considerable proprietors, one resides occasionally in the parish; and of the second class, one half is resident. There is one farmer in the parish, who rents a farm of rather more than 150 l. *per annum*. There are a few others, whose rent exceeds 50 l. There is one physician, and one surgeon in the parish.

Trades.—In the village there are 3 shopkeepers. Within the parish there are 20 weavers, who work chiefly for Glasgow and Lanark. About 50 young people, from 9 to 30 years of age, are employed in the flowering of muslins for Glasgow, earning usually about 10 d. or 1 s. a day. In the village there is a cotton manufactory, employing about 30 or 40 hands, at about 1 s. a day.

In the parish there are generally about

15 Mafors and wrights

10 Shoemakers

6 Taylors

2 Bakers, and sometimes a butcher

4 Public-houses, and

6 Ale-houses, which last are tolerably well frequented.

Crops.—Oats and potatoes are almost the only general crops. When oats are sown after potatoes, the ground is seldom plowed. There is raised a good deal of rye-grass and clover, and a tolerable quantity of flax for family use. The oats are sown from the middle or end of March to the

beginning of May. There is little more meal made than what is used in the parish, the farmers generally thinking it more advantageous to dispose of their oats to the public-houses in their neighbourhood. The oats produce from 9 to 13 pecks of meal from the boll. Both spring time and harvest are generally wet.

Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.—There are three clergymen in the parish; the ministers of the Established Church, of the Burgher, and of the Antiburgher congregations. To the Established Church there adheres about a third part of the parish. To the Burgher congregation belongs by far the greater part of the remaining two thirds. Only a few individuals of this parish belong to the Antiburgher congregation, the rest of its members coming from West Calder, and other parishes.

Perhaps the following circumstances may, in some measure, at least, account for the great proportion of Seceders in this parish. Whiteburn was formerly part of the parish of Livingston; but was disjoined from it, and erected into a separate parish, anno 1730. The erection was made in consequence of a sum of money having been raised, by a voluntary subscription over all Scotland, which, after building a church and manse, and purchasing ground for a glebe, was thought sufficient, by its yearly produce, for the maintenance of a parish minister. Several of the heritors were liberal in subscribing, active in procuring subscriptions, and zealous in carrying on the process of erection before the Court of Teinds, from entertaining the idea, that the minister was to be chosen by the parish at large. The patron of Livingston, however, was found, by the House of Lords, to be, *ex necessitate*, patron of Whiteburn, which had been disjoined from it. And this gave such universal offence in the parish, as threw the greater part of it, gradually, into the Secession.

Another

Another circumstance farther increased the dissatisfaction of some of the smaller heritors, and their inclination to secede. They imagined, that the rent of certain lands in the parish of Shotts, which had been purchased with the subscription money, was to be all the maintenance to which their minister was to be entitled: But this turned out to be by no means the case; for a few months after the decret of patronage by the House of Lords, the minister was preferred to 28 l. 6 s. 8 d. additional stipend, out of the teinds of the parish, by the Lords Commissioners of teinds for Scotland. The chagrin occasioned by these two circumstances continues still so strong, that not many, even of the most sensible in the parish, can talk with any degree of patience of patronage, or augmentation of stipends,

Sir William Augustus Cunningham, Bart. is patron of the parish. The present incumbent, Mr James Rhind, was admitted minister of Whiteburn in 1790. His only predecessors were Mr Alexander Wardrobe, deceased; Dr Porteous of Glasgow; Professor Baron of St. Andrews; and Mr Sommerville of Stirling, to the last of whom he succeeded. He has been married about twelve months, and has one child. His income is 125 l. of stipend, and 3 l. 6 s. 8 d. of communion elements, which, with the manse and glebe, may be estimated in all at 140 l. *per annum*. Of the stipend, 100 l. arises from a feu of two farms in the parish of Shotts; and the remainder is the augmented stipend. The church is a good, large building; but stands much in need of being repaired. The manse is an old, but tolerably good, house, and in decent repair.

Poor.—The number of poor upon the parish roll is usually about 10. They are maintained, at present, by the collections in the church, and by a voluntary subscription over the parish, which are distributed by the session, under the inspection

inspection of the heritors and subscribers. The sum which must be raised in this way is about 40 l. Sterling annually, as the poor, according as they are single, or married; able to work a little, or, none at all; have allowances of, from 6 d. to 2 s. 6 d. a week.

Manners and Morals.—A tolerable degree of industry prevails in the parish, and the morals of the people are as good as throughout the country at large.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The great disadvantage under which the parish labours, is wetness in almost all seasons, particularly in seed time and harvest. Coals abound in the parish, and are to be had both in it, and the east part of Shotts almost adjoining to it, at 6 d. per load, weighing two and a half cwt. Lome is easily driven from the neighbouring parishes of Bathgate and Livingstone, as the high roads from Glasgow to Edinburgh, and from Borrowstounness to Elgin, run through the parish in opposite directions. Freestone quarries are open in several parts of the parish.

Edinburgh affords a ready market for most of the produce of the farms, as calves, poultry, cheese, and butter, which are bought up, and taken there by carriers. There is also a considerable traffic in milk cows, to supply the Edinburgh cow-feeders. The parish and neighbourhood abounds with dealers in black cattle. These dealers, by requiring grass parks to hold the cattle they have on hand, give great encouragement to inclosing and planting. For such parks as are tolerably fenced and sheltered, they pay from 15 s. to 25 s. per acre. Many people in the parish make a livelihood by keeping a horse and cart, with which they drive grain from Leith and Dalkeith to Glasgow, and often bring a load of pig-iron, in returning, from the iron works lately established in that neighbourhood.

N U M B E R XXI.

PARISH OF MEARNS.

(COUNTY OF RENFREW.—PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY.—
SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND Ayr.)

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE McLATCHIE, Minister.

Situation, Extent, and Surface.

THE parish of Mearns is situated in Renfrewshire, in the presbytery of Paisley, and provincial synod of Glasgow and Ayr. Its centre is about 8 miles distant from Glasgow, and nearly as far from Paisley. Its length, from east to west, is 6 miles, and its breadth about 3½. It stands high above the level of Clyde. There are no considerable hills in it, but the face of the ground is beautifully diversified by a great variety of waving swells. It rises gradually from the east extremity to the west, where the moor or common lies.

Soil and Produce.—The soil is all of a light and quick kind, lying on a bed of rotten rock, excepting some small tracks in the lower part of the parish, which have a clay bottom. It is chiefly remarkable for its fine pasture. It produces grass both in greater quantity than common, and likewise of the very best kinds; and it every where abounds with a profusion of white clover. The greater part of the lands is in pasturage. Every farm is stocked with milk cows, and the principal

principal object of the farmer is to produce butter, and butter milk, for the Glasgow market. The butter that is made here, and especially that which is salted for winter's use, is reckoned preferable to any other, and the demand for it is vastly greater than can be answered. It has nothing of that rancid taste, which butter made on deeper and heavier soils is sometimes found to have; and it keeps in good condition for a very long time. Potatoes are raised for domestic use, and some barley and oats, but scarcely so much of the latter as can supply the parish. It is but a few years since sown grasses were introduced. Less attention, perhaps, than they deserve, have been paid to these, on account of the great crops of natural grass which the soil, in many places, is fitted to produce. Two hundred stone of this grass is often raised upon one acre; in some particular spots, 260, or even 280, and this, too, for a great succession of years. This natural grass sells one penny, or three-halfpence per stone cheaper than the best clover and rye-grass. Field turnips have hitherto been sown only in small quantities.

Cows.—Most of the cows here are of a middle size, and of a brown and white colour. They give from 10 to 15 Scotch pints of milk per day. Some of them, during the prime of the grass, give 17 or 18 pints. There are not a few farmers, however, whose cows, upon an average, do not give above 8 Scotch pints per day. This is owing to their want of care to get a proper breed, and to their keeping more of them upon their ground than it is able sufficiently to pasture. Their queys, too, are much injured, by being kept in the Moor of Mearns, where they are only half fed; and from this circumstance, they never afterwards attain the size, nor give the quantity of milk, which those cows do that have been reared with care at home.

The churning of milk makes a great and laborious part of the farmers work. Of late they have introduced the use of churning-mills driven by water. There are many streams which run through the parish, and answer for these mills, and, on trial, they prove highly beneficial, and save a great deal of labour.

Moor.—The commonty belonging to the heritors is about 1600 acres in extent. It is always covered with the most beautiful verdure, and produces very good grass and clover, without any heath or bent. Were it once divided, it would need nothing but shelter and inclosing to render it extremely valuable. At present the heritors receive little benefit from it, as it is under no proper management. There are steps taking to bring about a division of it, which will both tend to enrich the proprietors, and add to the beauty of the parish. In this commonty there are three lochs, well stocked with fish. One of these, called the Brother Loch, is about three miles in circumference, and abounds with char and trout. The other two, the Little Loch and the Black Loch, are of a smaller size. These lochs afford plentiful supplies of water for the public works, in this and the neighbouring parish of Eastwood.

Heritors and Rent.—The landed property of the parish is at present divided among 60 heritors, the greater part of whom are resident. The principal ones, according to their valuation, are Miss Pollok of Pollok; Sir Michael Stuart of Blackhall, Bart.; Mr Hugh Hutchinson of Southfield; Mr Brown of Caplerig; Mr Maitland Hutcheson of Greenbank; Mr Logan of Fingleton; and Mr Wilson of Netherhouse. Several of these are resident. They have excellent modern mansion-houses on their estates, and are exemplary and active

in promoting around them a spirit of industry and improvement.

The rent of land is high. Exclusive of the moor, it may be, on an average, 26 s. per acre. Some parts of it are let in pasture, at 50 s. per acre; and there are some considerable proprietors, who can let the whole of their lands for pasture, at 44 s. per acre. About 26 years ago, the average rent was not above 7 s. or 8 s. per acre. The lands then were not inclosed, and it was usual to have a great part of them in constant tillage, which gave the most miserable returns; and what was in pasture was always overstocked with cattle, which were therefore kept in a starving condition. The profits of the farmer, of consequence, were small, he paid his rent with difficulty, and lived poorly. The inclosing of the lands, and an industrious and judicious management of them, as well as the increase in the value of the articles of produce, enable the present tenants to live comfortably, and to pay their rents with punctuality.—The valued rent of the parish is 4711 l. 6 s. 6 d. Scots. The real rent is probably near 5000 l. Sterling.

Manufactures.—There are two cotton mills in this parish, at Bushby on the water of Cart, both belonging to the same proprietors. The one of these was erected in 1780, and the other about two years ago. The number of people employed in both mills are as follows :

Of males under 15 years there are	100
Of females under 15	110
Of males above 15	60
Of females above 15	90
	<hr/>
	360

Two bleachfields have been lately established. One of these, at Wellmeadow, employs 13 men and 26 women. The other, at Broom, which has just begun work this summer, employs 11 men and eleven women.

Church, Poor, and School.—Sir Michael Stewart of Blackhall, Bart. is patron. The stipend is 5 chalders of meal, and 27l. 13s. Sterling of money. No augmentation has ever yet been demanded. The glebe consists of about 4 acres of arable land. A very good manse was built in 1789, and the church was fitted up in a very neat and commodious manner in 1792. There has long been an Antiburgher meeting-house here. The congregation, which is not near so numerous now as formerly, is made up of people belonging to this parish, and to some of the adjoining parishes. There are, likewise, in the parish, a few Burghers and Cameronians. It is pleasant to see the happy effects of toleration. Time has softened the rancour of party among these seceders from the Established Church, and almost all of them live in good neighbourhood, and discover a spirit of Christian charity and moderation.

There are but few poor in the parish. These are supported in the usual way, by collections made at the church, by the interest of a small accumulated fund, by the profits of the mort-cloth, and by the dues arising from the publication of the banns of marriage. There are no begging poor belonging to the parish.

There is a parochial schoolmaster, who has a salary of 8l. 6s. 8d. Sterling, besides the usual small school-fees, and an allowance of 30s. as session clerk. There is the same reason to complain here, as in most other places, that the emoluments of the schoolmaster are no way adequate to the quali-

sifications generally expected, and to the labour and fatigue required.

Population.—From an accurate account taken in 1792, it appeared that there were in the parish 1430 souls at that time. Of males, 675—of females, 755.

Under 15 years of age	—	—	562
From 15 to 70	—	—	841
Above 70	—	—	27
			<hr/>
			1430

According to Dr Webster's account, in 1755, there were 886 souls in the parish.

The present very considerable increase of population, is chiefly owing to the introduction of manufactures, and to the addition of inhabitants to the village of Newton. This is the only village in the parish, and it has of late increased greatly. There are at present 47 families in it. The most of these are the families of tradesmen and common labourers.

Character of the People.—The people of this parish are sober, industrious, and oeconomical; respectful to their superiors, and uncommonly friendly and obliging. They are rational in their religious sentiments, and moderate in their religious zeal. All of them are strongly attached to our present civil constitution, and cautiously avoid giving countenance to any change or innovation in it. It is happy for them, that they pretend not to make politics their study. They mind the duties and business of their own station, and wish to enjoy, with thankfulness and peace, the many blessings which a kind providence bestows on them.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The only antiquity here is the Castle of Mcarns. It is a large square tower, situated on a rocky

rocky eminence, and commanding an extensive and beautiful prospect. It is not known when it was built. It is supposed to be several hundred years old, and to have been used as a place of detence. It was surrounded by a strong wall, and the entrance was secured by a draw bridge. It is now, however, greatly dismantled and out of repair, the family of Blackhall, to whom it belongs, having their residence at Ardgowan.

The roads are in good condition, and the best materials are every where at hand for making them. The great road from Glasgow to Kilmarnock runs through the whole length of the parish; as does also the road from Glasgow to Stewar-ton. The road from Paisley to Kilbride and Hamilton crosses the parish from north to south. There are also many private roads. These were formerly made and repaired by statute labour, but an act of Parliament is now passed, for converting the statute labour of this county into money. There are no diseases peculiar to this parish. Inoculation for the small-pox is gradually gaining ground. There is neither free-stone, nor lime, nor coal in the parish, but all these are to be had in plenty at no great distance.

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF WALLS AND FLOTA.

(COUNTY OF ORKNEY AND SHETLAND—PRESBYTERY
OF CAIRSLEY.—SYNOD OF ORKNEY).

By the Rev. Mr JAMES BREMNER, Minister.

Name.

WALLS sometimes signifies the parish only, and sometimes it is taken for the whole island. In old maps it is spelt *Waas*, and its present pronunciation is uniformly as if written *Waas*, a corruption, probably, of *Voes*, which originally, and at this day, signifies a considerable inlet or bay, where ships anchor; and in these this end of the island abounds, as *Lyar-voe*, *Thur-voe*, *Ofmand-voe*. Here it may be remarked, as a thing not improbable, that Kirkwall, the chief town of the county, was originally *Kirk-voe*.

Population.—By an accurate list taken in 1788, the inhabitants of all ages, in both the united parishes of Walls and Flota, stood thus :

In the south side of Walls	—	451
In the north side ditto	—	233
In Faira and Flota	—	236
		<hr/>
		920

By

By lifts taken in April 1794, the population stands thus :

In the south side	—	—	449
In the north side	—	—	302
In Faira and Flota	—	—	240
			<hr/> 991

The population, in 1755, was 1000 souls.

What accounts for this increase of 71 is, the settlement of a colony of Highlanders, who had been forced to emigrate from Strathnaven, where their farms were converted into sheep pasture.

These people, it would appear, had been comfortably situated in their former residence, as they all brought with them, to this place, a very considerable stock in horses, cows, sheep, and goats, and also in grain. As to all other property, every man of them might truly say, *Omnia mea mecum porto*. Their household furniture must therefore be described negatively. No bed, no table, no chair. These the Highlander does not reckon among the necessaries of life, as he can make the earth serve him for all the three.

In his shealing, composed of earth and a few sticks, you find no other furniture than a few dishes for his milk, and a barrel for his meal : So true in fact, as well as philosophy, is the maxim, *Natura contenta est paucis*.

Cattle.—The number of horses in the parish is about

		235
The number of cows and queys	—	400
The average value of horses and cows is from		
1 l. 15 s. to 2 l. Hence the value of the Sterl.		
whole horses and cows may be about		L. 1200
Foals of a year old, 21, at 1 l. each	—	21
Calves of a year old, 65, at 10 s.	—	32
Carried forward,		<hr/> L. 1253

	Brought over,	L. 1853
Swine, 133, value about 5s.	—	33
Sheep from Tweedsmuir, 700, at 9 s. each		315
Twenty ditto rams, at 1 l. 1 s. each	—	21
Sheep of Orkney breed, 900, at 3 s. each	—	135
		<hr/> L. 1757

It may be thought, perhaps, that the horses are valued too low; but the fact is otherwise. The horses in this island are inferior in value to those of the main land and North Isles. This is owing, probably, to the number reared in the island, and the less frequent renewal of the breed, from the horses annually imported into this country from Strathnaver and Sutherland, as well as to the very different manner in which they are maintained here and in the main-land. In the latter, there is a great emulation among the farmers to have the best horses. Their horses are consequently fed at an extravagant expence, and thereby rendered of a better quality.

The above statement of the sheep is formed from a plan adopted about two years ago, by Mr Moodie of Milsetter. According to this plan, the whole were converted into a common stock, betwixt Mr Moodie himself, his tenants, and a shepherd; but the tenants not entering heartily into the scheme, the business now rests almost entirely betwixt Mr Moodie and the shepherd.

The trial is yet of too short a standing to form any certain judgment how far it may be successful, or otherwise; only this much already appears in its favour, that the south country sheep have agreed very well with the change of pasture.

Until the above alteration took place, the number of sheep in the parish was usually about 2000, distinguished by
above

above 150 different marks; and, being the property of the inhabitants in general, were left to range at random over the island. They were never housed; nor one of them taken without a dog. They separated themselves into different flocks, and had their particular places of resort, the same flock always frequenting the same place. Every owner knew the marks and haunts, not only of his own sheep, but also, in general, those of all his neighbours; so that if any of them chanced to stray into a new walk, they were soon discovered, and their owners, without any trouble or expence, knew where to find them.

Where sheep are so wild as to be taken only by means of a dog, it might seem extremely difficult to take any particular one out of a large number; but those in the practice of it can, in a few minutes, take one of any given description out of a thousand.

Sheepmen are commonly sworn to fidelity in their office; and when a sheep is to be taken, one of these sets out with his dog close at his foot, or carrying him in his arms, that the sheep may allow him to approach near enough to discover the mark. This point gained, he advances more briskly, when the flock begin to break and divide before him, and, in proportion as the division which carries with it the marked one diminishes its number, it increases in fear and speed. The man, no longer equal to the task, assigns it to his companion, by this time grown impatient to act his part. Such sheep as now happen to be before the dog, begin presently to break into new divisions, whilst the sheepman, keeping a sharp eye on the object of his pursuit, directs every motion of his dog by a different call, by the course he himself takes, or even by the waving of his hand; all which being readily understood and obeyed by a well trained dog, the victim is soon seized, and, for most part, without receiving any material

terial injury. The more sagacious sheep dogs trip them over by laying hold of one of their fore legs, and thereby effectually prevents them from advancing a step farther. When the sheep finds himself thus overcome, he ceases all further effort, and lies almost motionless at the feet of the dog, until the sheepman lays hold of him.

Climate.—The Orkney Islands, situated at the extremity of the island of Great Britain, can only have a land breeze from two or three points southerly. As the wind, in every other direction, comes from the German, Northern, or Atlantic oceans, it must necessarily be damp and cold. That this is the case in Orkney, will appear from the following circumstance: Planting of wood has frequently been tried in different places in this island, and always without success; so long as the plant is sheltered by surrounding houses, or high walls, it will make progress; but, where these are wanting, it may indeed live, perhaps for ages, but will never be able to reach its natural perfection. A plant of ash, for example, 3 feet in height, may, in the course of 7 years, equal a wall of 6 feet high; but it might stand a century without gaining 3 feet more in height, or 3 inches more in diameter.

Agriculture.—The only kinds of grain usually sown here are a small kind of barley, and small grey oats. Now and then, a few people, by way of trial, sow white oats and pease, an experiment that has been tried repeatedly for generations past, and which every new comer from the south country may perhaps repeat for generations to come; but of which the advantage will never be so apparent as to bring it into general practice.

It may be asked, What should hinder white oats from growing here? The answer may perhaps be this, The situation,

ation, the soil, the season, and the climate, are unfavourable to them. These yield very little to art; it therefore becomes the business of art to adapt herself to them. It is for this reason that the farmers in this county do not begin their oat seed till the beginning or middle of April; nor their bear seed, till the beginning or middle of May, the seasons when the one and the other are usually over in the south of Scotland. Not that the farmers here are not equally aware, as their neighbours, of the danger of a late harvest; but that their experience convinces them no less of the danger of too early a seed time.

It must not, however, be denied, that the improvements which might be made here, by inclosing, fallowing, and green crops, have been hitherto too much neglected.

Churches, Manse, &c.—The church of Walls formerly stood at the Kirkhope, but is now in a more central situation, on the south side of the Longhope. It was built about the year 1743, and last year was thoroughly repaired. It is rather small for the parish, but commodiously contrived and well seated. The church of Flota had stood for many years without a roof; but, about 12 years ago, it was roofed in, being thatched with heather, and furnished with new seats and new windows.

The manse was built in 1782, not where it formerly stood, and where the glebe still is, on the top of the Hill of Fea on the south side, but on the north side of Longhope, almost opposite to the church. The former situation, in point of prospect, dryness of its stance, and convenience in being near the church, as well as in some other respects, was far preferable to the present. But in a country where there are few days, even in summer, that a fire can be dispensed with, the article of fuel comes to be a matter of material consequence.

quence. The present incumbent, therefore, chose to have his manse on the north side, where there is peat ground in abundance, and very near, rather than where it formerly was, with the above advantages, but with the disadvantage of carrying peats from a considerable distance, both by land and water, with much trouble, and at a considerable expence.

When the present manse was built, it was likewise intended to excamb the glebe; and it was in great forwardness to be accomplished, when some election punctilio put a stop to it. Mr Moodie of Melfetter, on whose property the manse stands, still proposes to complete the excambion, to which the present incumbent is ready to accede, being persuaded that it would be for the interest of his successors, as well as for his own.

The present rent of the glebe is 5 l. 11 s. in money; and the tenant has lately had a small croft, formerly let to a cottar, given him without any additional rent. The glebe was much injured in the last incumbent's * time, by a planking which never was authorised by his presbytery; but, as the division stands at present, it is pretty extensive and improvable.

The stipend, in money, paid by Mr Moodie

of Melfetter, amounts to	—	L. 25	2	2½
Communion element money, by ditto		2	4	5
Out of the bishopric, in money	—	8	6	8
Out of ditto, in malt, 28 meils, at a medium				
price, about 10 s.	—	14	0	0
Payable for the island of Flota	—	1	13	4
Glebe as above	—	5	11	0
		<hr/>		
		L. 56	17	7½

* Mr Grey.

Produce.

Produce.—The quantity of kelp made yearly is about 80 tons, and costs from 1 l. 5 s. to 1 l. 10 s. per ton of 24 cwt. for burning. About 20 years ago, for the same quantity, the prices were only from 15 s. to 20 s. or, on the very worst shores, 1 l. 1 s.

Fish.—The cod fishing here is extremely precarious; the fish being some seasons remarkably plenty, and at others equally scarce. At some periods, for months together, there will not be so many fish caught in a boat, as, on a division, to be a fish for each man. At other periods, on the same ground, and in the same space of time, the boats will be loaded as deep as they can swim. From 50,000 to 70,000 cod have been often cured here in one season.

When the fishing is good, there may be about 12 boats, with 6 men each, that usually follow that business; at other times, about half that number follow it occasionally. Every cod, measuring 14 inches and upwards, from the shoulder fin to that next the tail, costs 2 d. All under 14 inches to 11 inches cost 1 d. each.

The lobster fishing is carried on in Orkney by about 60 boats, with only two men to each boat. At an average they may catch about 2000 lobsters to each boat, making annually from 100,000 to 120,000 fish, at 1½ d. each. The number of boats have been constantly increasing for these several years past, and are still increasing; but it is not likely that the number of fish caught will be thereby increased: For it is found by experience, that all the fish on any particular spot are soon picked up, and that, at the end of a fishing season, they become very scarce every where.

Poor.—The number of poor in the parish is, in ordinary, about 20. The annual collections seldom exceed 3 l. 10 s.

This

This is totally inadequate to their support; but the charity of the parish is not to be estimated by the trifle contributed in money. The people are far from being deficient in this virtue; many of them possess it in a considerable degree, and exercise it liberally in proportion to their abilities. They occasionally send supplies of the necessaries of life to the abodes of the necessitous; and if, at any time, this supply fails, the latter make an occasional tour, and the intention of the visit is perfectly understood. The charitable know the necessitous, and the necessitous know equally well the charitable. If there be any who are unable to travel, their case is always particularly attended to. When the present incumbent first understood how trifling the funds were, and the destitute and helpless condition of some of the poor, he was much concerned to think of the misery to which some of them might sometimes be reduced; but was no less pleased to be informed, that there existed here a spontaneous mode of charity, founded on the principles of nature and duty, equal in its effects to any political institution whatever.

Character.—The people are very peaceable and inoffensive, apparently very simple, but in fact abundantly shrewd. Their address is without embarrassment or rudeness, but not without a degree of politeness and good manners, though sometimes an affectation of refinement in the last, makes it ridiculous. What has been said of their charity, may serve as a criterion of their sense of religious obligation. Being strangers to all the different opinions of sectaries, they are strangers also to those vain disputations, violent dissensions, and strifes about words, so frequently to be met with in other places.

Their

Their attendance at church, and on all religious ordinances, is punctual; and their services are performed with all that outward seriousness and solemnity, that usually indicate the inward sincerity of the heart.

Birds.—Ember geese are plenty here in winter, but, being birds of passage, they disappear in spring, and do not return till the end of harvest. How this bird hatches its young, remains a profound secret, both as to the manner and the place. That it should be in either of the ways commonly supposed, under its wings, or in the sands, are conjectures attended with many difficulties, that render both very improbable. But that they do not breed any where hereabouts is certain, as their eggs are never found here, nor their young, till fully grown.

This bird is also remarkable for its strong structure of body; for though considerably less in size than the common grey goose, it weighs a great deal more. They sometimes weigh 18 pounds. It is never seen on the land; and though it has pretty large wings, it is never seen to fly. Every water fowl takes the assistance of its feet to raise itself out of the water, when it is going to fly; but the feet of this bird are so much in a right line with its body, that they can never be brought far enough forward to assist it in rising out of the water. Nor does nature seem to have intended that it ever should fly; for in whatever manner it is attacked, pursued, or suddenly surprised, it always has recourse to diving for its safety. Being a bird of passage, it differs from all others, in preferring, on that occasion, the medium of water to that of air; and as it makes its way, probably with equal speed, by means of its wings, (for sea fowls are frequently seen using their wings under water), so it accomplishes it with equal certainty.

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The lyar bird is not peculiar to this island, but abounds far more here than in other places of the country. The food of this bird is not known; only by its being web-footed, and seen always flying and hovering over the sea, there can be no doubt but that, in some shape or other, it derives its subsistence from that element. The stomachs of the young ones do not serve to ascertain their food; they contain nothing but a thin oily substance which flows readily by the bill, when they are hung by the feet.

This bird makes its nest, by digging a hole horizontally in the loose earth, found among the shelvings of high rocks. The holes are commonly of that width and depth, that a man's hand and arm can reach the birds, of which there is only one in each hole. One of them may weigh nearly a pound weight, and is so fat, that one half of it will run to an oil. Some reckon it the most delicious morsel in the world, and others the most detestable.

Whether the lyar, or lyar-catcher, be the greatest curiosity, I shall leave the reader to judge. The former, as if instinctively warned of the adventurous boldness of the latter, chuses a retreat for hatching its young, seemingly perfectly inaccessible to every creature not furnished with wings. Rocks perpendicular, or sometimes projecting far beyond their base, and in height from 1000 to 1300 feet, promise the desired security;—but in vain. The lyar-catcher swings himself over by means of a rope, and lowers himself, or is lowered down by his assistants, who hold the rope, till he reaches his intended station. He then crawls, and clings, and climbs, till he has taken every lyar in that quarter. In pursuit of the same game, he sometimes, by a second rope, makes a second descent still farther down the precipice. In this last station, he may have 500 feet perpendicular rock over his head, and 700 or 800 feet below him, hanging over
the

the ocean; yet such is the love of fame, of some sort or other, or such the difference of human constitutions, that the adventurer repeats here his manoeuvres, with the greatest seeming unconcern. And indeed his unconcern must be real; for if he should once begin to shrink or shudder at his awful situation, he would soon tumble headlong to the bottom, an event that sometimes, though but rarely, happens. Having collected his prey, he adjusts it to his shoulders and back, taking care that it may not incommode him in climbing. He then returns, and climbing where he can, and assisted by his rope where he cannot, he regains the summit, bringing with him the value of only a few shillings in his most successful adventure.

Eminent Men.—The only person born in this parish, whose merits claim a place here, was Commodore James Moodie, of the family of Melfetter, who, when a boy, having run off from school, entered himself on board a man of war, where his good conduct gradually advanced him to the rank of a commodore, in the service of her Majesty Queen Anne. How well his services were received, and how much he was respected, may best appear from the following letter, written by Charles III. King of Spain, to her Majesty Queen Anne.

Madame ma Soeur,

Le Capitaine James Moodie, qui commande le vaisseau Lancaster, m'a rendu des services si considérables, que je dois presque uniquement reconnoître de son zèle, la conservation de ma ville de Denia, laquelle (depourvue de toutes sortes d'amunitions), n'auroit gueres tenu, contre un siege de cinque semaines, amoins que le dit Capitaine, n'en eut fourni quelque quantité sur la requisition que lui firent ceux, qui
com-

commandoient de ma part. Je ne doute point que votre Majesté voudra bien lui faire ressentir les effets de sa genereuse reconnaissance, tant a l'égard de d'ites services, que de ma pressante intercession ; a laquelle je n'ajouterai que l'assurance du respect et attachement sincere avec lequell, Je suis,

Madame ma soeur,

*Barcelone, ce 12mo. Nov.
de 1707.*

Votre tres affectionné frere

CHARLES.

The above translated may run thus.

Madam my Sister,

Captain James Moodie, who commands the vessel *Lancaster*, has rendered me services so important, that I owe almost entirely to his zeal, the preservation of my city of *Denia*, which, being destitute of all kinds of provision, could not have held out against a siege of five weeks, unless the said Captain had furnished a supply, at the request of those who commanded on my part. I doubt not but your Majesty will make him a handsome and generous return, both on account of the said services, and of this my pressing intercession : To which I shall only add, the assurance of that respect and sincere attachment with which I am,

Madam my Sister,

Your very affectionate brother,

CHARLES.

With regret I add, that the above gentleman, at the advanced age of between 70 and 80 years, was basely murdered in the streets of *Kirkwall*, by the hand of a hired villain, and at the instigation of a rebel, Sir James Stewart.

NUM.

N U M B E R XXIII.

PARISH OF KILLEARNAN.

(PRESBYTERY OF CHANONRY.—SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ROSS).

By the Rev. Mr DAVID DUNOON, Minister.

Situation, Name, and Extent.

IT is bounded on the west by the parish of Urray ; on the north by a range of common, dividing it from Ferrinstosh ; on the east by Kilmuir Wester and Suddy ; and on the south by the Frith of Beaully, along which it is pleasantly situated.

The origin of the name is uncertain. Tradition makes the burying ground, which gives it to the parish, to be that of *Irenan*, a Danish prince, who fell in battle on its confines, where *cairn* Irenan still exists. The greatest length, from north-west to south-east is about 5 miles, and the greatest breadth about 2. It is wholly the property of two residing heritors, Mr Grant of Redcastle, and Mr M'Kenzie of Kilcroy.

Soil.—In this there is a considerable variety. Light loam, gravel, and deep blue clay, are to be found on the same farm. Some fields are covered with small stones in remarkable abundance ; 100 cart loads have been thrown off an acre, yet on the next plowing, a similar source of amusement has presented itself to the farmer. A considerable track covers a

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remarkably thick stratum of reddish free-stone, which extends almost due north to the Frith of Dingwall. It is easily hewn, and, when properly selected, very eligible for buildings of any description.

Several small veins of wilks, and other shells, are found. There is neither marle nor lime-stone; nor have the effects of either (with very immaterial exception) been hitherto tried on the soil. This will lead the reader to infer, that the state of

Agricultural Improvement is backward in the extreme. Of this a just idea will be formed, when it is mentioned, that although about 2000 acres are in culture, there is not a two horse plough in the parish, and very few, iron included, worth above six or seven shillings, those of the proprietors excepted. The farms are almost entirely under a constant succession of corn crops, barley and oats alternately, a very small extent being altogether for pease, and an inconsiderable proportion, which exhausts a large share of the manure of the year, appropriated for potatoes. The farmers have no inclosures, and of course consider the vicinity of any as an intolerable grievance, so that their fields from autumn, until the briar appears in April, are one undistinguished common, through which horses, oxen, and sheep range promiscuously.

To a person unacquainted with the circumstances of the country, this statement will appear unaccountable; he will look on the inhabitants as labouring under obstinate prejudices, or stupidly incapable of learning the beneficial systems of others; but to neither of these causes is it to be attributed; 1st. The proprietors do not appear to have looked on the introduction of the modern system of farming, as an object adequate to (what they conceived) the unpleasant necessity of granting long leases, to the tax on their properties of an in-
creased

created melioration, as well as the inducement which they would probably require to hold out to improving tenants in a diminution of the rent. No man of this description can commence his operations on a proper scale, without a capital equal to at least 5 years rent, for reasons obvious to every person in any measure acquainted with husbandry; and no man, who is in possession of a capital to this extent, will be induced to take a farm, unless he can have the prospect of a comfortable maintenance, and full melioration for his expenditure in building and improvements. The rent that can be afforded by such a farmer must of course be proportionally low, as the sum which he advances on entering, as the value of his stocking, (say the necessary horses, farming utensils, &c.), together with the probable requisite expenditure, are high; because he has to add the annual interest of these, being at least 8 *per cent.* to his rent. It is therefore evident, that the difference betwixt the value of melioration, expenditure, and stocking, necessary for the present mode of conducting husbandry, and the value of those as requisite for the effectual introduction of the more generally approved system, must be altogether against the proprietors. This difference is very considerable.

Let us view both in a few particulars, as in their probable consequences affecting the lands in this parish. First, By the present system of farming, it is believed that the full melioration does not exceed two-thirds of the rent, say, (for the sake of even numbers) 1400*l.* the interest of which is an annual tax on the different properties of 70*l.* But by the modern system, 3 years rent for melioration will be requisite, say 6300*l.* raising the tax to 315*l. per annum.*

Farther, by the present system, the different operations of husbandry are principally carried on by oxen. Horses are (I believe with very few exceptions) used for conducting the modern

modern system. Suppose that 200 horses may be able to labour what is now done by 600 oxen. Suppose the value of the necessary stocking to be thus much the same, calculating each pair of horses as equal in value to 6 oxen, say 24 l. which, for the above number, supposed necessary for the purpose of husbandry in this parish, is 2400 l. *

The interest of this sum, sunk in a stocking of oxen, may be
 6 per cent. being, *per annum* - L. 140 0 0

The interest of the same sum, sunk in a stocking of horses, is at least 10 per cent. being,
per annum - - - L. 240 0 0

The smith and ferrier's charge cannot be under
 10 s. for each horse *per annum* - 100 0 0

Suppose the consumpt of oats to be a peck per week for each horse at an average, i. e. 3 bolls 1 firiot *per annum*, or 650 bolls for the above number, valued at 12 s. per boll 390 0 0

In all L. 730 0 0
 From this take as above 140 0 0

The supposed difference betwixt the expence of labouring with horses, and that of labouring with oxen, is - - 590 0 0

Ditto betwixt that of melioration, as above stated, is - - - 245 0 0

So that these two articles, which are moderately rated, make a clear annual balance against the proprietors, of - - L. 835 0 6
 which

* We have a number of small horses, even by the present system of farming; but these are maintained at a considerable expence; and it is presumeable, that any losses to which they subject the farmer, is more than compensated, in general, by the number of supernumerary cattle which he is able to rear.

which in this parish would be near 40 *per cent.* of the rent.

Add to these, the very material difference in the expenditure for farming utensils, manures, and improvements, the material deficiency in the article of manure, together with the *prodigious public loss**, which would result from the universal adoption of the modern plan of using horses instead of oxen.

These circumstances shew, that the introduction of the more approved plans of husbandry would not, in a pecuniary view, be so advantageous to the proprietors as might at first be imagined. And indeed it is a well known fact, that very distant as farms in this part of the country most unquestionably are from improvement, yet that from the inconsiderable necessary expence of an intrant tenant, the average rent of some of them equals that of some in the county of Essex.

But other circumstances have contributed to that backwardness in agricultural improvement, too evident in this and the neighbouring parishes.

Before any persons can be induced to deviate from established practice, they must have access to observe the superior advantages of a new system; they must have the prospect of reaping the fruits of that system by long leases; and also (as already observed) a sufficient stock to enable them to persevere until their farms are brought to proper heart.

The farmers of this parish have never had the advantage of the first of these. It is true, the proprietors have occasionally introduced the improvements of modern husbandry, but from the efforts of proprietors as examples, the peasantry never will act. These generally improve more for pleasure
 than

* An 100 oxen must, one year with another, be sold and slaughtered out of 600. To this quantity of beef add the above 650 bolls of oats saved—*Quæritur*, To how many people will these afford annual maintenance. Our oxen weigh about 350 or 400 lib.

than profit. If fond of a country life, their expenditure in hedging, inclosing, trenching, with a thousand *et ceteras*, is endless. I have known the first crop, of little more than half an acre, cost the improving proprietor above 20 l. How can a poor tenant imitate this? He will laugh at what he considers the enthusiasm that leads to it, and it will rivet his prejudices against improvement.

An intelligent *actual farmer*, whose bread depends upon his industry, and who is little removed from their own sphere in life, (the Hugh Reoch, mentioned in the very ingenious statistical account of Alloa), is the man who will most essentially contribute to introduce an alteration of system, and a spirit of improvement into any district. His neighbours will observe, and are, in very few instances, so blind to their interest, as if able, not to imitate his exertions.

But the agricultural state of this parish will farther be accounted for, when it is mentioned, that leases are, with very few exceptions, unknown. The farms on the most considerable property have for many years been held only from year to year. The longest lease recollected, with the exception of the life-rent of one small farm, is 10 years, and very few have exceeded 5. What inducement does this present for improvement? How can that man embark in any plan for ameliorating his farm, who knows that he only hangs out a bait for the grasp of avarice, and that ingenuity and industry tend only to ruin him? It is to be hoped that the more enlightened policy of the southern counties will soon be more generally adopted in ours, and that the proprietors will delight in receiving "the blessing of them that are ready to perish;" the just recompence gratefully paid to the lord of their manor, by industrious, flourishing, useful members of society, and accompanied, let it not be thought of little value, by their prayer for his enjoying the blessing of the

Lord

Lord of lords. From the above statement it will be inferred, and with justice, that the farmers in this parish, and indeed throughout this country, are, in general, *poor*; so much so, that although leases should be granted, it would take some considerable time before they possibly could adopt an improved system of husbandry. What I will a mere theorist in farming exclaim, is not one system of husbandry as easily followed as another? Does not the modern system require fewer servants, and less seed; and does it not yield more luxuriant crops? Let all these be granted; but what this reasoning is to a *poor* tenant, the following facts will tend to illustrate. By the present system, it requires the utmost exertion of his industry, and an almost uninterrupted succession of crops, to pay his rent and servants, and afford a maintenance, *very slender indeed*, to his family. It may be affirmed, that on a farm of 30 acres, 2*l.* *per annum* has not been cleared, at an average, by any one farmer, for 20 years, by farming alone. Let us suppose a man in this predicament, from observing the success of others, anxious to lay a fifth part under grass, say 6 acres; before he can possibly do this an inclosure is necessary, which, if built by the proprietor, exhausts, by the payment of $7\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.* interest, the supposed, or rather real average, profit. Let him, however, persevere to manure this properly, he starves the rest of his farm.

The grass is notwithstanding sown at an extra expence of 20*s.* per acre, and cut the second year; but when he calculates profit and loss, he finds a deficiency of 24 bolls, the usual average produce of 6 acres; the same the second year of the *improving* area, 48 bolls and 6*l.*; so that before he can experience the benefit of a grass crop, his corn yard may be probably sold to the highest bidder. It will be asked, Why not sell the grass at 6*d.* per stone? for the best
of

of all reasons, because he has no market. This is not mere theory. it is founded on fact; and the circumstances are mentioned merely for the purpose of pointing out to speculatists in farming the almost insurmountable difficulties which must be encountered by poor men, whose backwardness in ameliorating their farms, they are too often disposed to ascribe to ignorance, indolence, and obstinacy.

Let not the generous heart, therefore, load them with invective, or treat them with severity, for thinking once and again before they enter on measures which, however sensible they may be of their good effects when persevered in, may eventually prove their ruin. To the benevolent mind, on the contrary, it will afford pleasure gradually to lay open to their view what may be most conducive to their benefit, to stimulate their exertions by suitable encouragement, and to see them contented and happy in the possession of those comforts which are suited to their sphere in life. To this mode of conduct, it is to be hoped, that the farmers in this parish may have the comfort of looking forward. It is with much pleasure mentioned, that the present proprietors offer premiums to encourage the industrious; pay the expence of small temporary inclosures, to enable them to experience the utility of sown grasses; and allow melioration for comfortable houses. A number of farms have undergone judicious divisions of from 20 to 60 acres each. Customs and carriages have been converted; run ridges have been abolished; and, it is not doubted, that proper leases will be given to those who discover a wish to improve. Nor will they experience that this treatment of their inferiors will run in opposition to their interest. The above mentioned division of the farms they will find particularly beneficial. From the too prevalent practice of uniting small farms, it is confessed that a proprietor may have his rents collected with somewhat less trouble,

trouble, and his property may be brought with more rapidity to its utmost value ; but this plan is certainly objectionable, for two reasons of indisputable importance. 1st, Suppose the mode of farming the same, it is clear that the occupier of 30 acres, being the *actual labourer*, is able to pay a higher rent than can be afforded by those who employ servants at extravagant wages, and are often, through their negligence or villainy, exposed to imposition and considerable losses. The different operations of husbandry are performed on farms of this extent, not by the careless menial, but by the united exertions of a family, happy in themselves, and each feeling an interest in acting his part. But, 2^{dly}, In a national view, the consolidation of farms is still more seriously objectionable. Its effect is immediate depopulation. It compels the poor *aborigines*, "*Patriae fines et dulcia linquere arva*," to emigrate, friendless and unprotected, to other countries ; or to crowd into towns, with the view of grasping at the casual sources of earning their pittance, which may occur.

" Ill fares the land, to hast'ning ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay :
Princes and lords may flourish or may fade,
A breath can make them as a breath has made ;
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroy'd, can never be supply'd.
Their best companions, innocence and health,
And their best riches, ignorance of wealth *."

Were it possible to introduce the improvements of modern husbandry on farms of the above extent, just sufficient to occupy the attention, and encourage the exertions of the actual

labourer, aided by his family, (and possible it surely is by degrees) that point, it is conceived, would be attained, which would happily combine humanity with public utility, and the real interest of the proprietors with the happiness of thousands of their fellow creatures.

Rent.—The valued rent of this parish, including that of Wester Keffock, annexed, *quoad sacra*, to Kilmuir Wester, is 1873 l. 12 s. 7 d. Scots. The real gross rent exceeds 2000 l. Sterling.

Population.—In order to ascertain the comparative population betwixt the years 1755, (when the return was made to Dr Webster), and 1795, it is necessary to observe, that its boundaries have undergone considerable alterations, in consequence of a decree of the Court of Teinds, passed in the 1756, annexing the neighbouring parish of Suddy to those of Killearnan and Kilmuir Wester. The most accurate method will therefore be, to compare the returns of the three parishes of Killearnan, Suddy, and Kilmuir Wester, as stated in the 1755, with those of Killearnan and the united parishes of Kilmuir and Suddy.

The exact population of this parish was, in February 1794,

Males, above 7 years of age	—	—	505
Females above 7 years	—	—	517
Males below 7 years	—	—	68
Females below 7 years	—	—	57
			<hr/>

The number of souls was, on the above date 1147

As there are many of the inhabitants of this parish of the Episcopal (formerly the Nonjuring) persuasion *, by whom
it

* Above 300.

it is believed no register is kept ; and as a considerable number from other parishes are interred in the burying ground of this one, and *vice versa*, it is impossible to state with precision the number of births, marriages, or burials. It may, however, be remarked, that from 1st February 1794, to 1st February 1795, there is an increase in that of each beyond any thing recollected. As far as the session register goes *, the births have been,

<i>Anno.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1764	14	12	26
1765	21	8	29
1771	12	14	26
1775	11	12	23
1780	10	10	20
1785	8	6	14
1790	13	12	25
1794	21	20	41

But through the prevalence of a putrid fever, the burials for the year 1794 have borne a striking proportion.

There are in the parish, paying from 6l. to 60l. rent,

Farmers	—	—	—	61
Shoemakers	—	—	—	14
Weavers and apprentices	—	—	—	21
Tailors and ditto	—	—	—	14
Smiths and ditto	—	—	—	7
House-carpenters, cart and wheel wrights	—	—	—	9
Millers and servants	—	—	—	5
Masons	—	—	—	8

Antiquities.—Under this head, there are few particulars worthy of notice. There are two considerable antient structures,

* It includes only those who were baptized by the established minister.

tures, Kiltroy and Redcastle, the manor places of the heritors, which have evidently been built more for defence than for elegance, or comfortable accommodation. The latter (probably thus denominated from the colour of the stones of which it is built) was annexed to the Crown, with the lordship of Ross, *anno* 1455, has the rights of a burgh of barony, with those of a free port, holding weekly markets, levying tolls and anchorage dues, together with all other baronial privileges, not expressly abrogated by the jurisdiction act, 1748. At the beginning of last century, Redcastle was a place of considerable strength. In the 1646, soon after Montrose was forced, or rather permitted, by Middleton, to raise the siege of Inverness, Rory M'Kenzie of Redcastle joined him, together with his chieftain and clan, in that remonstrance against the procedure of the Covenanters, for which Seaforth was soon thereafter excommunicated.

In the 1649, the M'Kenzies, exasperated at the King's death *, and vowing revenge, projected an expedition to the south. Joining a party of Sutherlands, they, in number about 1500, crossed Kessock and Beauley on Sunday the 3d May: Coming to Inverness in time of divine service, the ringing of bells was soon succeeded by the noise of drums and bagpipes. The alarmed inhabitants, hastily summoned
from

* The writer finds the following lines in an old manuscript, said to have been written by Montrose on the sea beach, with the point of his sword, on receipt of the intelligence of Charles's fate.

Great, good, and just, could I but rate,
My griefs, and thy so rigid fate,
I'd weep the world to such a strain
As should it deluge o'er again.
But since thy loud tongu'd blood demands supplies
More from Briarius's hands than Argus's eyes,
I'll sing thy obsequies with trumpet sounds,
And write thy epitaph with blood and wounds,

from church, were obliged to provide the best intertainment. Their guests, however, were so delicately nice, that it was found necessary to bribe their teeth into exercise, by laying on every man's cover what they called *argiod cognidb*, chewing money.

From Luverness they marched through Murray, and, crossing the Spey, encamped near Balvany Castle, the property of the Marquis of Huntley. But amidst the revelry which resulted from considerable plunder, and unsuspecting security, they were suddenly attacked by Colonels Strachan and Kerr, defeated, and almost all made prisoners. Strachan, improving his victory, sent a party to besiege Redcastle, which was garrisoned, in the proprietor's absence, by his sons and dependants. A Lieut. M'Bean was sent to summon it to surrender; but he was fired at from the walls, and killed. This so enraged the assailants, that they stormed, took, and burnt it to the ground. M'Bean's covenanting friends looking on the M'Kenzie territory as unhallowed, conveyed his remains to have the privilege of Christian interment among the Fraser's at Kirkhill; where a flag still covers his grave, bearing this inscription, Here lyes one of David's Worthies *.

Cairns.—There are on the confines of this parish astonishing numbers of these, some of them of uncommon magnitude.

The servants of a neighbouring proprietor, when lately taking away the stones of one for an inclosure, found a stone coffin in the centre. This, with several other circumstances, evidently mark them as indexes of the ferocious spirit of ancient times. The most considerable were probably gathered in memory of the chieftains, or those who had been most illustrious for deeds of valour.—*Curidb mi clach ar do chaarn*

—I

* David Leslie.

—I shall add a stone to your cairn, was, among the Highlanders, the valedictory expression of gratitude or esteem.

There is one Druidical temple, Cairn-Irenan, formerly mentioned, probably the most complete in this country.

To the south-east of Redcastle, about 400 yards within flood-mark, there is a cairn of considerable dimensions. Many of the stones, notwithstanding their collision through the violence of the tide, still bear the marks of art, and indicate the existence of a considerable building at some very remote period. There are several cairns of this description in the Frith, about the origin of which even tradition is silent. Were there any vestiges of tumuli on which they could have been built, or any other circumstances which should indicate the eligibility of the scites on which they are placed, we might be induced to look on them as temporary asylums from the predatory incursions of rude and barbarous tribes; but none such exist. Urns have been found in one of them, which, with other circumstances, induced Dr Campbell * to be of opinion, that the Romans must have been thus far north. The cairns he supposes of Danish origin. An ingenious countryman † has gone farther, and supposes that a considerable part of the area which is dry at ebb tide, but covered with from 2 to 16 feet water when it flows, being at least 10 square miles, must have been inhabited,

Whatever may have been in this, the proximity of this arm of the sea is of very considerable utility to this and the neighbouring parishes, as, exclusive of the facility with which coals, lime, wood, and other necessaries are conveyed, it furnishes a variety of fish, and particularly herrings, in their season, which have been sometimes sold 100 for 1 d. Sprats, sandals,

* Polit. Survey, vol. I. p. 217.

† Mr Frazer, minister of Kirkhill, No. 2. Philosoph. Transf. I cannot recollect the precise number, it may be about the 250.

sandals, shrimps, flounders, and other small fishes, are taken during summer and harvest in what we call yares, a contrivance so common as not to require description.

Distilleries.—There are 7 licensed stills, of 30 gallons each, in this parish, yielding an annual revenue of 315 l.; but consuming a very considerable proportion of the produce. It is much to be regretted that the price of ardent spirits has not risen in this part of the country, in proportion to the advance of tax. The distillers having in general no capital, are frequently under a necessity of selling their whisky at a considerable disadvantage; and the number who are thus situated, supply our confined market so abundantly, that those who are possessed of capitals cannot avail themselves of them by a retention of the commodity, until the advance in price should yield a reasonable profit. Of consequence, while barley sells, as it now does, at a guinea per boll, the price of the gallon is only 3 s. and it is actually retailed in our dram houses at 3 s. 8 d. which is no more than it sold for before the last additional 50 per cent. was levied on each still. Hence it is evident, that that tax has no effect in rendering spirits more inaccessible to the lower ranks, and that it is principally, if not altogether, paid by the distiller out of his profits, not by the consumer; how far he is able to afford this will be seen thus: The quantity of barley allowed to be distilled by each possessor of a 30 gallon still, is 188½, so that 4 bolls, the quantity usually distilled at a time, pay about

The price of barley may be averaged at 19 s. be-

ing for this quantity

Fire, without including carriage for 3 or more

miles

Carried forward

L. 0	19	0
3	16	0
0	10	0
L. 5	5	0

	Brought over	£. 5	5	0
Candles, bandages, tear and wear of distilling utensils	- - - - -	0	5	0
Attendance for 8 days and 8 nights, carriages to and from mills, expence of malting, the kiln-drying, &c. &c. valued at	- - - - -	0	10	0
Total expence		L. 6	0	0

The average produce of each 4 bolls is highly rated at 9 Scotch, or 36 English gallons, and the average price equally so at 13 s. 4 d. per Scotch, or 3 s. 4 d. per English, say 6 l. The refuse for cattle may be worth 5 s. which is in fact the only profit to be derived from distilling in this country.

It will be asked, Why then so many distilleries? For these reasons: Distilling is almost the only method of converting our victual into cash for the payment of rent and servants; and whisky may, in fact, be called our staple commodity. The distillers do not lay the proper value on their time and trouble, and of course look on all, but the price of the barley and fire added to the tax, as clear profit; add to these the luxury of tasting the quality of the manufacture during the process.

A very beneficial alteration in the distillery law would be a more frequent renewal of licences; suppose 6 months instead of 12. As it now exists, the distiller becomes bound for 45 l. for a 30 gallon still, from the 1st December to the 1st December, let the prices of barley and spirits be what they may; of course, he is under the necessity of continuing to distil, however exorbitant the first, or cheap the last. This has two bad consequences, when a crop is unproductive, it raises the price of meal on the one hand, and renders spirits a dangerous drug on the other. The above alteration, without

without injuring the revenue *, would, in a great measure, prevent both. The price of spirits would find its level in proportion to that of grain, and the mean of intoxication would not offer itself to the lower ranks, with such pernicious facility as it now does in consequence of a glutted market.

Fuel.—The only firing in this parish is a yellow spongy moss, now almost entirely exhausted, and the wretched turf pared off the common. Newcastle coals are used by those who can afford the outlay of cash, together with burn wood and peats, subjecting such a family as the incumbent's, for a fire in a room and a kitchen, and occasionally in bed rooms, to an annual heavy expence of from 10 to 14 l. †.

Several circumstances indicating the existence of coals have occurred in different parts of this country ; but a peculiar disadvantage which prevents discoveries of this kind is, that the persons who are best qualified to make them, and who are of course employed, are, in general, notoriously interested in crushing the attempt. Until some man of skill and spirit shall be induced, by a participation of the profits, or otherwise, to make proper experiments, we shall probably remain as we are, in the want of this very essential comfort of life.

Improvements.—Under this head, it is pleasing to remark, that the progress, in some particulars, has of late been rapid.

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* Any possible injury to the revenue could arise only from the diminution of the quantity, and of course of the consumpt of ardent spirits. By the law, exportation is not permitted ; and consequently, however much the market may be overstocked, the inhabitants of this district of country are literally compelled to drink the superabundance.

† We have hitherto, from the advance in freight, seamen's wages, &c. experienced very little benefit from the suppression of the partial Red-head tax.

To Mr Grant of Redcastle the succeeding generation will be much indebted for his extensive plantations of oak, larch, planetree, ash, elm, and Scotch fir, fenced by at least 20,000 yards of an inclosure; but, however great the exertions of individuals may be, a bar has hitherto presented itself to the general improvement of the country, in an extent of unappropriated *muir*, perhaps the most considerable in Great Britain. It is lamentable to observe, that the peninsula formed by the Friths of Beaully and Dingwall, (commonly designed the Black Isle) contains, it is believed, from 30 to 40 square miles, abundantly capable of improvement by agriculture or planting, which still continued in their natural state, not worth one penny per acre, yet a continual source of jealousy betwixt the contemninous proprietors. It is the more so, as the propriety of a division is admitted on all hands as the power of the Court of Session, under the act 1695, to carry it into effect is undoubted, and as nothing is wanting but co-operation.

Some of the proprietors are now induced to look to the well known philanthropy of the *Agricultural Board*, for that effectual interference for carrying this very desirable object into effect, which might prove tedious, vexatious, and irksome, to any private individual. It would be an object highly deserving of their attention, which, without subjecting them to a shilling of expence, would most materially contribute to the good of their country.

Ecclesiastical State.—The present incumbent was admitted assistant and successor to his father on the 3d March 1790, in consequence of a sign manual from the Crown, and a presentation from Kenneth McKenzie, Esq; the representative of the family of Cromarty.

He inclines to believe that the right of patronage belongs to the latter.

The

The stipend of Kilmuir Wester, and Suddy, and that of this parish, are precisely the same, being nine chalders and one boll of bear, three chalders and three bolls oat meal, and ninety eight pounds nine shillings and eight pennies Scotch money. It is, however, marked by these peculiar circumstances, that the lands of one heritor do not pay a boll more than they did anno 1695, nor those of the other proprietor more than in the year 1721; and, however paradoxical it may appear, the last is in fact considerably the gainer by the *quantum* of stipend payable by his property. It was purchased at a judicial sale—a full fifth of the property, or what is the same thing, of the rent, was previously struck off by the Court of Session as teind. While the purchaser was under the necessity of taking a tack of the free teind, he was of course not a shilling in advance for the exhausted part, (*i. e.*) for the lands paying stipend.

But while the living remains, in *statu quo*, the minister's portion of the property. (may not this name be given it on paper)? bears its proportion of a considerable augmentation of rent, suppose 20 per cent.

The glebe may be about 6 acres arable and pasture. The names of two villages in the parish, *Chappletown* and *Spittal* *, corroborating some confused traditions, indicate the existence of two religious houses at some remote period, one dedicated to a Popish Saint, the other belonging to the Knights of Malta. There are at present none of the Roman Catholic persuasion, nor any who profess to differ from the established church, the Scotch Episcopals (who are rather more than a fourth part of the number of inhabitants), excepted.

Poor.—We have no parochial assessment for their support. There are, at an average, 35 on the roll, who, for several years,

* Hospital.

years, have only had the scanty weekly collections distributed among them, seldom amounting to above 5 l. when session clerks and officers dues are deducted, 150 l. belonging to the poor of this parish were given to the late proprietor of Red-castle on personal security; his property was sequestrated, and judicially sold, anno 1789; and while these creditors who had heritable bonds were all paid, principal and interest, and such as accepted of them, liquidated penalties, the widow and orphan have not, for many years, received a penny of either, and are now involved in a process of ranking, of which the termination and result are yet uncertain.

The poor of the two neighbouring parishes are in the same predicament, which is mentioned as a caveat against overstrained delicacy in the requisition of proper security, by all who are intrusted with the management of public funds; and particularly by those who act for the indigent and the destitute.

The number of itinerant poor has undergone a very pleasing decrease of late, by the introduction of a branch of the Inverness hemp manufactory.

An agent distributes hemp to be spun for sail-cloth, and pack-sheeting, furnishing an easy employment even to the aged and infirm, by which they can earn from 2½ d. to 6 d. per day. What renders this of peculiar utility to them is, that as they are not restricted in time, it does not prevent their attention to other necessary business; they can occupy, in spinning, those hours which would otherwise pass in idleness; and a stimulus to exertion is found in immediate payment on performing their engagements with fidelity.

Manners of the People.—These have, during the currency of the last 40 years, undergone a very pleasing alteration. The generality of the inhabitants were then ignorant in the extreme, and much disaffected towards our civil and ecclesiastical

tical establishments. As a striking instance of this the following circumstance is mentioned : The late incumbent was settled minister of this parish in May 1758 ; he, 8 months thereafter, publicly intimated, after sermon, his intention of catechising the inhabitants of a particular district on the following Tuesday ; but, on going to the house which he had fixed on as the place of meeting, not above three miles from the church, he found a convention of only a few old women. Having never before seen their minister they appeared much agitated, telling him, however, that he might have saved himself the trouble of coming to their town as they had no whisky. They retired, one by one, and alarmed the neighbourhood, by saying, that a strange Exciseman had just come to such a house. Since that period the change is striking ; the assiduity of the minister, in the discharge of his parochial duties, was attended with much success ; his exertions were, as he has often gratefully acknowledged, powerfully aided by the introduction of a * school, (supported by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge), at which from 60 to 90 children have been taught gratis. The house of God is now attended with regularity and devotion ; they have learned, not indeed the chearless refinements of modern Philosophy, but in the perusal of the gospel of peace, to find a healing balm to sooth and to comfort them under the pressure of all the calamities of life.

May they increase in those virtues which are pure, peaceable, gentle, of good report, and easy to be intreated !

* The very inadequate salary payable to the parochial schoolmaster is much against the parish ; it is only 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. The office of schoolmaster has been vacant since Martinmas, because no qualified person can be got to accept of it. What a pity is it that the pecuniary reward of a description of men, among the most useful in society, should exceed only, in a mere trifle, the wages of a common *hireling*.

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF BOHARM.

(COUNTIES OF BANFF AND MORAY.—PRESBYTERY OF
ABERLOUR.—SYNOD OF MORAY.)

By the Rev. Mr FRANCIS LESLIE, Minister.

Geography and Natural History.

THE ancient name is *Bocharin*; in the original signifying the bow about the cairn, or rocky hill, from its surrounding nearly three parts of the bottom of the mountain of Beneageen. The length, between the parish of Mortlich, at the west, and the parish of Bellie, at the east, is from 7 to 9 English miles; the breadth, from the parish of Botriphnie, at the south, to the highest cultivated land on the mountain, northward, is from 2 to 3 English miles; but the figure of the parish is so irregular, that these measures are to be regarded as the mean, rather than as the particular length and breadth.

The general appearance of the country may be conceived as an extensive valley from east to west, having all the arable land hanging on the declivities of both sides, there being little or no plain on the banks of the brooks, which, rising in the hills, bend their courses to either hand; to Fiddich, on the west; and, by the east, turning by the north-west to Spey. From this general description, Airndilly, the seat of David M'Dowall Grant, Esq; falls to be excepted, being delightfully

lightly situated on a rising ground, above a pretty extensive plain, half encircled by the Spey, in the south-western end of the parish, near to which, a little farther down the river, lie the haughs of Kailymore, a part of the same estate, signifying the *great wood*; which epithet, in some degree, it still comparatively merits. The soil here is sandy, warm, and fertile; but, in general, over the rest of the parish, it is a stiff, rich, deep clay, generally on a bed of lime-stone, and very retentive of water, with which it is too frequently supplied, the summit of the mountain attracting or intercepting the clouds borne along from the ocean by the north and north-westerly winds, on which account the harvests are rather late; and, though the air be moist, yet there is no distemper generally prevalent. The people are vigorous and healthy; and several attain to the longest term of human life, there being at present several men, each 80, and one woman accounted 100 years of age.

The water of Fiddich, turned almost at right angles, from an eastern to a northern course, along the west end of the parish, steals in to the river Spey, which is only navigable for floating timber down from Strath Spey, part of which is manufactured into plank, deal, spar, and scantling, by two saw-mills at the Boat of Brigg. It is hardly necessary to notice here the excellent salmon caught in the Spey, as the public are already sufficiently apprised of this particular.

The charter of Moray has preserved the memorial of the bridge over Spey at this place. Part of the foundation of the southern pier still remains. It has been supposed the bridge was of timber. Here also stood the *Chapel of St Nicholas*—" *Ad receptionem Pauperum transeuntium.*" Both the bridge and hospital were extant in the year 1232; but few particulars of their history or destruction remain.

It

It may be mentioned, that it is supposed practicable to build a stone-bridge here for about the sum of 3000 l. Sterling, which, besides certain conveniencies peculiar to this situation, would comprehend also all the requisite accommodation to the public; for, if the high-way were continued from where it joins the road between Keith and Fochabers, at the south end of the last of these villages, in the shortest course, to the Boat of Brigg, the distance from Cullen to Elgin would not be increased above 5 English miles on the whole, on a road as firm, and less exposed to depth of snow, than the present high-way from Fochabers to Elgin.

Population.—The ancient state of the population of the parish cannot now be ascertained, farther than that it does not appear that the number of farm-houses, or the extent of arable land, has been any way materially altered from what they were in times very remote.

Of late years, the population has been rather on the decrease, owing to several smaller farms, on which from 2 to 6 families resided, being reduced into a single farm, and occupied by a single family.

At present, the number of persons amounts to 1294, of whom 588 are males, and 706 females.

They all reside in the country, and follow the occupation of husbandry, with the exception of the few craftsmen who are requisite for that object, and for the more immediate accommodation of the people. There are none who have left the parish for want of employment; yet a few go southward in summer, on account of the higher wages given in that part of the kingdom.

There has never been any accurate register kept of baptisms, marriages, or burials. These particulars, therefore, cannot with any satisfactory precision be ascertained.

Productions

Productions of the Parish.—Oats, barley, and pease, are the kinds of corn principally raised. There are fields of sown grass, bearing, however, little proportion to the natural lie grass and common pasturage. Of the corn, there may be about two third parts in oats, the remaining third in barley and pease, in which part the potatoe and flax may be also included.

The oats and pease are sown from the beginning of March, as the season allows, to near the middle of May; and the barley seed-time is generally completed before the 1st of June. The harvest begins from about the middle of August to the middle of September. In some years, of late, it has not begun before the first week of October. Its conclusion, of course, must be at different times; and it has been, of late, accounted early, if completed by the end of November.

On the estate of Airndilly, if the different banks and clumps be regarded as a whole; there is a considerable extent of natural wood, in which wild cherries, plumbs, and geens, are interspersed. On this estate there are also extensive plantations of fir and pine; and other forest trees; and similar plantations have also risen up on the estate of Auchluncart, and on the lands in this parish appertaining to the Earl of Findlater, and which are not destitute of natural wood.

The black cattle among the country tenants, though not of great bone, are accounted handsome, and of a fine figure. The ordinary price of a yoke of oxen may be from 8 l. to 15 l. Sterling; and some have been sold at a higher rate. A milk cow may sell from 3 l. or 4 l. to 6 l. Sterling; and a score of wedders, with the fleece, from 6 l. to 9 l. Sterling.

Miscellaneous.—It must be accounted a disadvantage to the greater part of the parish, that it is so much exposed to rain

in the end of summer, and during the autumn; and, from the coldness of the soil, the snow lies long in the spring, so that the seasons are later; much of the corn not fully ripened; much lost; and much vexatious trouble in harvest, evils to which the opposite side of the Spey are comparatively not exposed; while, on the other hand, the near and more easy access to the cattle fairs during the summer, the abundance of natural pasture and lime-stone, are advantages which the neighbourhood on the north side of that river do not so amply possess.

The parish is at present possessed by 4 heritors. David McDowall Grant, Esq; has the lands of Airndilly, Papeen, Newtown, Gallval, and Auchmadies. The Earl of Findlater holds the barony of Mulben, the lands of Cairnty and Muldeiry. Andrew Stewart, Esq; writer to the signet, has the barony of Auchluncart. Archibald Duff of Drummuir, Esq; has the farm of Knocan. The valued rent of the parish is 2840 l. Scotch. The real rent of the whole has not been ascertained.

The Scotch is the only language spoken in the parish; but, with a few exceptions, the names of the places belong to the Earle tongue.

There are no funds for the support of the poor, except two small mortifications, amounting only to 8 l. 10 s. Sterl. together. The number of poor on the roll may amount to 17.

The ruin of the castle of Gallval is the only remain of any thing that can be deemed antiquity in the parish. It was built fronting the east, on the north side of the valley towards the western end, where the declivity hath fallen more gently into an inclined plain, and shot a promontory into the deep defile, formed by the course of the stream of Aldermy; snugly sheltered from the northern blast, with an enlivening

enlivening extent of arable field, rising behind on either hand ; a luxuriant landscape, spread westward on the winding banks of the Fiddich, glittering through the meadows and woods, decorated by the steady battlements of the castles of Balvenie and Auchendown, each on its own green hill, and terminated by the summits of the blue mountains, ranged at a distance around, seeming to debar all irruption upon the sequestered vales. It bore little resemblance to the other castles of the feudal lords, whose towers, or square or round, of various heights and form, projected for the protection of the intermediate walls. It appears to have been a simple structure of an 119 by 24 feet within, divided by an internal wall, so as to form two halls on the ground floor, one 65, and the other 54 feet in length. The windows were only 20 inches wide, though the walls were 8 feet thick, built up in frames of timber, for keeping in the fluid mortar which was poured into the dry stone-wall, when raised to a certain height. The front and corners were neatly finished with free-stone from the quarries of Duffus, at the distance of 20 miles, on the other side of Spey, the nearest where such stone could have been procured. The front and gables are now entirely broken down ; but, within these 50 years, they stood to the height of several stories. About that period, several silver spoons were found among the rubbish, having the handle round, and hollow like a pipe ; and the concave part, or shell, perfectly circular.

This bulky fabric, which on the eastern front had lower external accommodations, in the year 1200 was denominated Castellum de Bucharin. It then belonged to the Freskyns of Duffus, by whom it was no doubt built. By assuming the title *De Moravia*, from their connection with that country, they became the author of that surname. They were once possessed of many a fair domain in the north, namely, Duffus, Duldavie,

Duldavie, Dalvey, Inverallen, and Kirkdales, in Moray; Airndilly, Aikenwall, Boharm, Botriphnie, then Botruthin, Kinermonie, then Cere Kainermonth, in Banffshire; and in Nairn or Inverness, Brachlie, Croy, Ewan, Lunyn, and Petty, as appears by the charter of Moray, from the 1100 to 1286. At this day, they are represented, in the 20th generation, by the Duke of Atholl, Captain Sutherland of Duffus, and Mr Murray of Abercairny.

It is also by the charter of Moray instructed, that, between the year 1203 and 1222, William, the son of William Freskyn, obtained the consent of Brucius, Bishop of Moray, for building a domestic chapel, for the more commodious performance of the offices of devotion. It stood on its own consecrated burying-ground, forsaken only in the course of the last 60 years, about 50 yards from the north end of the castle; and, though only 24 by 12 feet within, must have been the parent of the present parish church, which, with several others, was erected at the private expence of James VI. for civilizing the north of Scotland, in the year 1618, at which period the parish of Airndilly may be supposed to have been annexed.

A part also of the parish of Dundurcos has been of late conjoined, and a new church erected about two miles eastward, in a situation which some suppose to be more central. But the stipend, after both annexations, including the allowance for communion elements, is only 75*l.* 7*s.* 2½*d.* Sterling.

Although it is not certainly known that any man of peculiar eminence was born in the parish, yet it may be proper to notice, that Mr James Ferguson, the astronomer, received the rudiments of his education here, under the patronage of the grandfather of the present Mrs Grant of Airndilly. Mr Ferguson has himself published his life: It is only necessary therefore

therefore here to add, that, while a little boy who could hardly read, and employed in tending the cows, the family clock was the first object which elicited those sparks of mechanical genius which in due time shone with such a bright and vigorous flame.

The people, on the whole, are industrious, economical, obliging, and kind, according to their manners and circumstances; very attentive to the national religion; and there is no remembrance of any having been judicially punished for the violation of the laws of morality or justice. They appear, in general, to enjoy the necessaries, and many of the comforts of life, and to be contented with that situation in the world which has been allotted to them by Providence. There are means by which their circumstances might be meliorated; but, it being extremely probable they will not be adopted, it may be deemed officious to enumerate them here.

The difficulty and expence of procuring hands for the operations of agriculture, and the want of all police, either conventional or legal, respecting this object, has of late been so heavily and universally felt, that perhaps any speculation that might contribute to turn the attention of the more discerning to this interesting object, may not be deemed entirely nugatory.

In so far as this grievance hath arisen from the diminished value of money in the present opulent age, when, as in the days of Solomon, it may be said "*of silver, that it is not any thing accounted of,*" it cannot be regarded as any cause of complaint; for the price of labour must be proportional to that of other articles: But, in so far as the evil arises from the combined fraud, the falsehood, the stubbornness, and the domineering insolence of that rank of society, it ought to be repressed, although in due consistence with the rights

of

of men ; and much delicacy, in this regard, is no doubt requisite. It might tend, perhaps, to check the evil, were every agricultural servant, by law, obliged to produce to the master with whom he engages, and to the church-session of the parish, when required, a certificate from the master whom he left, granted before two legal witnesses, of the wages which he received, and of the discretion, fidelity, and diligence, which he maintained during the period of his preceding service ; the engaging master to forfeit equal to a quarter of year's wages, and the servant as much, to the parish fund, for every omission of such formality ; to be recovered at the instance of the cathier of the session, by the warrant of one justice of the peace, or other judge ordinary, in the same summary manner in which the fines are levied on the absentees from the statute labour on the roads.

Those who have been attentive to the operation of any new law, will be able perhaps to form a judgment of the effect of such an establishment, were it so framed as to admit of equal execution in England and in Scotland. It does not appear that it could be attended with much inconvenience to either party ; and, while it would, in general, prevent imposition on the master who engages, by an exaggerated account of the wages paid by the last master, as is now so generally the case, it would, in many instances, have the effect of rendering the servant discreet and diligent during the term of his service, when so much as a quarter's wages depended on his behaviour.

Other improvements respecting diet, and the hours of labour, might be suggested ; but it is probable the effect alone of the certificate may render these unnecessary : At any rate, if regulations respecting the contract between master and servant shall be taken under the consideration of Legislature,

every

every thing of this kind will be maturely digested, and sufficiently provided for.

By the nauseous draught of train oil in Lapland, and the more disgusting beverage of Otaheite, it may be inferred, that man cannot be satisfied with the simple element alone of water. From the different circumstances concomitant on the excise law in England and in Scotland, it would not be difficult to investigate why beer has been the prevailing drink among the peasantry of the southern, while ardent spirits has so universally obtained among the same rank in the northern end of the island, to which must be attributed their asperated and contracted features, rather than to the influence of their climate.

The Secretary of State for this department, by the restoration of its ancient families to their paternal fortunes; by increasing the independence of its Judges, particularly the Sheriff-substitutes, on whom the administration of justice among the poor so much depends; by providing for the interest of the seamen and their connections; and by the repeal of the tax on water-borne coal, hath merited more of his native country than all his predecessors in office together. Characters so highly respectable are unpopular only among the blindest of the mob. To him it would be easy to model the law in such a manner, that beer, instead of whisky, should in a short time be generally adopted by all the labouring people in Scotland; and, by this means, while he would contribute to maintain, in a high degree, the purity of the morals, and the soundness of the constitutions of his countrymen, he would at the same time expand their countenances, and improve their whole exterior form to the highest elegance of symmetry and beauty.

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF KILLIN.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.—PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD.—
SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr PATRICK STUART, Minister.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE name of this parish is evidently Gaelic, and seems to signify the chapel, church-yard, or burying place of the pool *; the ruins of an old chapel, and the church-yard, being situated on a bank of the river of Lochy, and having one of the deepest pools in the river just behind them. From this circumstance the parish seems to have derived its name; but as the word Killin may signify in Gaelic, too, the burying place of Fingal †, a tradition prevails, owing probably to this very circumstance, that that great hero of the Highlanders was interred here, and that it is thence that the parish derives its name. A small eminence in the neighbourhood of the village of Killin, has been accordingly pointed out as his grave, but on being opened some years ago, no vestige appeared of any persons having been interred there. The parish is situated in the north-west corner of the county of Perth, in the district called Breadalbane, and in the presbytery of Dunkeld, and synod of Perth and Stirling.

* *Cill-linn.*

† *Cill-Fhinn.*

ling. It is about 28 statute miles in length, and, in most places, from 6 to 8 miles in breadth. It is bounded by the parish of Kenmore on the east, by the parishes of Comrie and Balquidder on the south, by the parish of Arrochar on the south-west, by that of Clochandysart or Glenorchay on the west, and by parts of the parish of Fortingal in Glenlyon on the north. From the parish church, which is situated in the village of Killin, at the west end of the lake called Loch-Tay, the parish extends 8 miles east along the south side of that lake, and to the westward about 20 miles, through a valley, the east end of which is named Glendochart, and the west end of it Strathfillan. A village called Glenfalloch which breaks off from Strathfillan, and is about 7 miles in length, lying towards the south-west, belongs also to the parish of Killin. Towards the north lies Glenlochry, a valley about 10 miles in length. It is separated by a ridge of mountains from Glendochart and Strathfillan, and runs parallel to them, terminating, like Glendochart, in a pretty extensive plain, at the west end of Loch-Tay. Most of the farms in Glenlochry belong, according to the ancient arrangement of these parishes, to the neighbouring parishes of Kenmore and Weem, but, from their vicinity, depend entirely on Killin for church privileges, though not formally annexed thereto, *quoad sacra*; and the case is the same with the farms to the eastward of the village of Killin, for two or three miles alongst the north side of Loch-Tay.

Soil and Surface.—The soil of the greater part of this parish is light and dry, but abundantly fertile when the season is favourable. As it lies mostly on gravel, however, it is apt to be parched up in dry seasons, particularly alongst the declivities of the hills. A considerable part of the soil in the parish too is wet and marshy. This kind abounds most in the plain which lies at the west end of Loch-Tay, and in the

bottoms of the valleys of Glenlochry and Glendochart, which are subject to the overflowings of the rivers of Lochy and Dochart running through them. These rivers, being suddenly swelled by the rains, descend frequently with considerable impetuosity, overflowing their banks, to the no small prejudice of the fields and meadows which lie along the sides of them. The surface of the ground in the parish is generally unequal. The bottoms of the valleys are mostly level, consisting chiefly of meadows and arable ground. The hills rise with a gentle slope, and are cultivated and inhabited in many parts a good way up. They rise, in many places, to a considerable height, and carry rich grass to the very top. In the higher parts of them, it is generally interspersed with pretty rank heath, which the shepherds of late years have been at pains in burning, and the sheep, since the more general introduction of them into the country, contribute to keep under.

Lakes and Rivers.—Loch-Tay, by the side of which a great part of the parish of Killin lies, is the only remarkable lake in the country. It is a fresh water lake, 15 English miles in length, and reckoned about a mile in breadth. It lies from west to east, and out of it the river Tay issues. There is another lake at the west end of Glendochart, called Loch-dochart. It lies also from west to east, is about 3 miles in length, and forms the boundary betwixt Strathfillan and Glendochart. The river of Fillan falls into the west end of it, after running for 7 miles through Strathfillan, and the river of Dochart issues out of it, which runs for 8 miles through Glendochart, before it joins the Lochy and enters into Loch-Tay. The river of Lochy runs for about 10 miles through Glenlochry, and these rivers of Lochy and Dochart evidently give their names to each of the valleys
through

through which they run. They are but small, and mostly clear and rapid, being formed chiefly of the streams that fall into them from the adjacent hills. There is another small river, named Falloch, which runs through Glenfalloch, and seems to give its name to that valley. It discharges itself into the north end of Lochlomond.

Fish.—Salmon and trout are the kinds of fish that abound most in the lakes and rivers of this parish. The salmon of Loch-Tay are rich and large; and it is a remarkable circumstance respecting this lake, that, excepting for about two months in the middle of winter, the salmon are found clean therein during the whole year. They go west the river Dochart in considerable numbers in the spring and summer months, but few or none of them are found in the Lochy; owing probably to some considerable falls in that river. There are some trout of a large size found in Loch-Tay, but they are rare; and the trout in the rivers of Lochy and Dochart, and in some lakes in the adjacent hills, though pretty numerous, are generally of a small size. Loch-Tay, and the rivers that fall into it, have also eels, pike, and perch in them. The char, too, are in the lake, but they ordinarily keep by the depths, so that they are seldom got but in the end of autumn and beginning of winter, when they proceed up the rivers in great numbers to spawn*.

Hills and Woods.—The parish of Killin abounds in high hills,

* There is a circumstance not unworthy of notice, that the Earl of Breadalbane has, by his charters, the privilege of fishery for salmon upon Loch-Tay at all seasons, without any restraint from statutory restriction. This privilege is said to have been intended, for supplying with fish the nuns of a convent, upon the island at the east end of Loch-Tay, founded, it is said, by one of the Scottish Queens.

hills, which are not rocky, but covered with grass and heath in most parts to the tops of them. The highest mountain in the parish is Benmore, which is situated by the side of Lochdochart, in the pass betwixt Glendochart and Strathfillan. Its figure is conical, and, by Stobie's map of the county of Perth, its elevation above the level of the sea is 3903 feet. It was in former times a deer forest, but is now converted into a sheep-walk.

There is a considerable quantity of wood in the parish, both natural and planted; and it thrives very well in most parts of it. Even in Strathfillan, and in the higher parts of the parish, where there is now rather a want of wood, it is very evident it once abounded; the trunks of trees being so frequent in the ground, that the natives within these few years made a practice of digging them up, and using them for light and fuel. The natural woods consist chiefly of oak, ash, hazel, alder, and birch; and the plantations of Scotch and silver fir, plane, beech, and elm. They are now mostly inclosed, and taken sufficient care of by their several proprietors.

Game, &c.—There is a great variety of game, both in the woods and hills of the parish. The most numerous wild quadrupeds are hares of both kinds, the white and common hare. Roes are in some of the woods, but they are rare. Wild cats, martins, weasels, badgers, and otters, are not uncommon. The fox, which was formerly so destructive to the sheep of the country, is now mostly extirpated.—Of the winged kind, tarmagans, dotterels, and plovers, are on the tops of the mountains; grouse and black game in the hills; and partridges in the corn fields. The ravenous birds that prevail most, are eagles, hawks of different kinds, ravens, crows, and magpies. Ducks of various kinds, herons,
 sea-

sea-gulls, and wild geese, frequent the lakes and rivers. The cuckoo, swallow, and other migratory birds that are common in the rest of the internal parts of the kingdom, pay their annual visit here. Some birds are found in this country, which are reckoned rare; as the scaup-duck, the water-rail, the ring-ouzel, the greater spotted wood-pecker, the nut-hatch, the greater and lesser red-polls, &c.

Climate and Diseases.—The climate is various, but generally moist and cold. This is much owing to the particular situation of the parish. The district of Breadalbane, in which it lies, is one of the highest in Scotland, and farthest removed from the sea*; and as it abounds in high mountains, the clouds, floating in the atmosphere, frequently break upon the tops of them, and fall down in rain through the valleys. The snow, too, rests long upon the hills; and, owing to these circumstances, the spring is generally late and cold. But when summer commences, by the reflection of the sun from the adjacent hills, the heat is much greater than in level countries, and vegetation advances with great rapidity. The diseases that prevail most among the inhabitants are such as are principally owing to the influence of climate, as rheumatisms, pleuristics, &c. The people are, in general, however, very healthy, which is much owing to their sober and industrious mode of living. Seventy and eighty years is not an uncommon age attained by them, and there have been more than one instance of persons in the parish who have outlived their 100th year within the present century.

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* The height of this country is intimated by its name, *Braid-Albainn* being a Gaelic word, which signifies the highest part of Scotland; and as an evidence of its height, it is to be observed, that at Carn-drom, in the west end of the parish, the waters divide, and run partly into the eastern, and partly into the western sea.

The great mortality, occasioned in former years by the small-pox among the children, has been of late in a great measure prevented by the introduction of inoculation.

State of Property.—The landed property of the parish is divided among 5 proprietors, who all hold their lands of the Crown. More than half of the land in the parish is the Earl of Breadalbane's property. Mr Drummond of Perth has one farm therein, on which there is a feu of some acres, with a long lease; and the remainder is divided among three gentlemen, who have each of them a right to a freehold qualification in the county, have places of residence, and ordinarily reside in the parish. The valued rent of the whole parish is 3115 l. 6 s. 8 d. Scots. The real rent amounts to about 3000 l. Sterling.

Cultivation and Produce.—As this parish was never completely surveyed, the exact number of acres it may comprehend has not been ascertained; nor the proportion that the pasture ground therein bears to the arable. The greatest part of the land is evidently calculated for pasture; but there is also a considerable quantity of arable ground, which is kept in constant tillage. The principal crops raised in this parish are oats, pease, potatoes, flax, and bear or big. Oats and pease are sown commonly from the beginning to the end of April; bear and potatoes from the beginning to the middle of May. A considerable quantity of flax is raised in the parish, and sown about the end of April. The rotation of crops ordinarily observed, is to sow oats in lea ground, or after fallowing; potatoes or bear after oats; and flax after bear or potatoes. The increase from these different kinds of seed varies much, according to the quality of the ground and the nature of the season. Oats generally return from

3 to 4 after the grain sown; barley and pease from 3 to 5; potatoes from 10 to 16; and flax from half a stone to a stone, after the lippy of seed. Owing greatly to the scarcity of inclosures, turnips and sown grass are little cultivated in the parish, except by a few gentlemen, with whom they answer well, and who derive much benefit from them. The harvest usually begins about the middle of August, and the crop, except in very wet and cold seasons, is secured by the end of September or beginning of October.

Price of Grain and Provisions.—The grain produced in this parish itself is never sufficient for supplying its inhabitants with that article. There are, besides, some hundred bolls of meal imported into it annually. The average price of oats here is 12 s. of bear 16 s. and of potatoes 4 s. per boll. Oat meal is ordinarily sold at 16 s. and bear meal at 12 s. per boll; but in the years 1782 and 1783, oat meal sold here at 1 l. 3 s. and 1 l. 4 s. per boll; and the different crops failed so far, in this and the adjacent countries, in these two seasons, that the natives of this parish had been much at a loss for meal at any price, were it not for some pease meal brought from the south, which served greatly to relieve their distress. The price of beef, mutton, veal, and pork, is generally regulated by the prices of our cattle markets, being about 3 d. per lib. of 17½ oz.—Butter is 9 d. per lib. of 22 oz. iron weight.—Cheese varies in its price, according to its richness and age, being from 5 s. to 7 s. per stone of 22 lib.

Price of Labour.—The price of all kinds of labour is greatly advanced here of late years. The wages of men labourers are 1 s. a day from the 1st of March to the 1st of November, when they furnish their own provisions. Men
working

working at peats are allowed 8 d. per day, and women 6 d. with their meat. The wages of a carpenter and mason are from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. per day; of a taylor, 1 s. without meat, or 8 d. with it. Domestic men-servants get from 7 l. to 10 l. Sterling of wages, and women from 2 l. to 3 l. Sterling.

Villages, &c.—Killin and Clifton are the only villages in this parish. The village of Killin is situated at the west end of Loch-Tay, betwixt the rivers of Lochy and Dochart, which join a little to the eastward of the village, before they enter the lake. The windings of these rivers through the plain at the end of the lake, and the surrounding hills, in many parts skirted with wood, serve to render the situation of the village both picturesque and pleasant. In summer, particularly, there is a variety in the scene that most strangers are pleased with; and it is one of those landscapes that Mr Pennant was so much gratified with, as to give a view of it in his tour. The village itself is but small, and formed on no regular plan. It contains only about 150 souls, but the district of country that surrounds it, is for several miles closely inhabited. Most of the villagers are tradesmen, who have an acre of ground, alongst with a house and garden, for each of which they pay rent to the Earl of Breadalbane. There are 6 fairs held here annually, at which a good number of cattle is ordinarily sold, with a considerable quantity of woollen and linen yarn, besides a variety of other articles imported and exported out of the country. At Killin, too, the family of Breadalbane held their baron-bailie courts, for settling any little differences which may occur, and for maintaining order among their tenants. Clifton is a small village, which lies in the west end of the parish. It contains about

200 persons, who have hitherto earned their bread principally in working at a lead mine in that neighbourhood.

Inns, Ale-houses, &c — There are several houses in this parish in which ale and spirits are sold, but none that deserve to be termed inns except two. One of these is in the village of Killin, and the other at Tyndrum, in the west end of the parish, being a proper stage betwixt Killin and Dalmaly in Glenorchay. A distillery, too, has been erected lately in the neighbourhood of the village of Killin, which is the only one in the parish.

Roads and Bridges.—The district of Breadalbane, in general, in which the parish of Killin is situated, is well supplied both with roads and bridges. The military road from Stirling to Fort William passes through a great part of this parish; and the improvements made lately on that line of road, with the great order in which it is now kept, serve to render the communication of this country with the south of Scotland, and the west and north-west Highlands, easy and agreeable. The country roads through the parish were originally made, and are still kept in repair, by the statute labour, which is exacted in kind.

State of the Church.—The Earl of Breadalbane is sole patron of the parish. The church was built in 1744, and, were it properly finished within, might vie with most country churches for neatness and elegance. Besides the parish church, which is situated in the village of Killin, there are two other chapels in the parish, the one at Strathfillan*, and

* There is a bell belonging to the Chapel of St Fillan, that was in high reputation among the votaries of that saint in old times. It seems to be of some mixed metal. It is about a foot high, and of an oblong form. It usually lay on a grave-stone

the other at Ardeonaig; and it was customary for the minister of the parish to preach in the three places alternately.

But

stone in the church-yard. When mad people were brought to be dipped in the Saint's Pool, it was necessary to perform certain ceremonies, in which there was a mixture of Druidism and Popery. After remaining all night in the chapel, bound with ropes, the bell was set upon their head with great solemnity. It was the popular opinion, that, if stolen, it would extricate itself out of the thief's hands, and return home ringing all the way. For some years past this bell has been locked up, to prevent its being used to superstitious purposes.

It is but justice to the Highlanders to say, that the dipping of mad people in St Fillan's Pool, and using the other ceremonies, was common to them with the Lowlanders. The origin of the bell is to be referred to the most remote ages of the Celtic churches, whose ministers spoke a dialect of that language. Ara Trolde, one of the most ancient Icelandic historians, tells us, in his 2d chapter, that when the Norwegians first planted a colony in Ireland, about the year 870, "*Eo tempore erat Islandia silvis concreta, in medio montium et littorum: Tum erant hic viri Christiani; quos Norwegi Papas appellant: et illi peregre profecti sunt, ex eo quod nolent esse hic cum viris Ethnicis, et relinquebant post se nolas et baculos: ex illo poterat discerni quod essent viri Christiani.*" *Nola* and *bajula* both signify hand-bells. See Du Cange. Giraldus Cambrensis, who visited Ireland about the end of the 12th century, speaks thus of these relicts of superstition: "*Hoc non praetereundum puto, quod campanas, bajulas baculosque sanctorum ex superiore parte recurvos, auro et argento aut aere confectos. tam Hiberniae et Scotiae quam et Givalliae populus et clerus in magna reverentia habere solet; ita ut juramenta supra haec, longe magis quam super evangelia, et praestare vereantur et perjurare. Ex vi enim quodam occultata, et iis quasi divinitus insita, nec non et vindicta (cujus praecipue sancti illi appetibiles esse videntur) plerumque puniuntur contemptores.*" He elsewhere speaks of a bell in Ireland, endowed with the same loco-motive powers as that of St Fillan. Topog. Hiber. L. 3. c. 33. & L. 2. c. 23. For in the 18th century it is curious to meet with things, which astonished Giraldus, the most credulous of mortals, in the 12th. St Fillan is said to have died in 649. In the 10th year of his reign, Robert the Bruce granted the church of Killin in Glendochart to the Abbey of Inchaffray, on condition that one of the canons should officiate in the kirk of Strathfillan.

But a missionary is now established in each of these stations, with a salary of 50 l. Sterling, arising chiefly from funds mortified by the late Lady Glenorchay, and left under the management of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, together with a manse and glebe from the Earl of Breadalbane. The mission at Strathfillan, in the west end of the parish, comprehends also the adjacent parts of the parish of Glenorchay; and that at Ardeonaig to the eastward takes in the neighbouring parts of the parishes of Kenmore and Weem. The legal stipend of Killin is 55 l. 11 s. 1½ d. Sterling, with a manse, office-houses, and glebe. The heritors give besides 35 l. 18 s. 8 d. Sterling of a gratuitous donation; and the patron allows 6 l. Sterling for dispensing the sacrament annually. The present incumbent was ordained assistant and successor to his father in the year 1780, succeeded him in 1789, and is the fourth that has been in the living since the Revolution. Excepting one family of Roman Catholics, there are no sectaries of any denomination in the parish.

Schools.—The parish schoolmaster here has a salary of 10 l. Sterling from the heritors, which, with school dues, and some perquisites as session-clerk, makes his living a little better than 20 l. Sterling annually. He has also a house and garden, and has ordinarily about 70 scholars, several of whom learn Latin, Greek, and French with him. There are 3 other schoolmasters in the parish, who teach only the reading of English and Gaelic, with writing and arithmetic; and 3 schoolmistresses, for teaching sewing and knitting of stockings. One of these schoolmasters has a salary of 14 l. Sterling from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and each of the other two has 8 l. Sterling from the Society, and 5 l. from the Earl of Breadalbane; and the school-

schoolmistresses have each of them 5 l. Sterling from the Society annually.

Poor.—The average number of poor receiving alms in this parish, and the adjacent parts of the parishes of Kenmore and Weem, is about 80. The annual fund for their relief is about 30 l. produced by the collections in church upon Sundays, mort-cloth dues, fines on delinquents, and the interest of a small sum appropriated for their use. About 10 of these are confined to bed, who receive the greatest part of their subsistence from the charity of their neighbours in more affluent circumstances. Here it is but doing justice to the inhabitants to observe, that they are, in general, remarkably charitable. The noble family of Breadalbane, in particular, deserve much praise. For many years past, they have been in the use of giving meal annually to the poor of the parishes of Killin and Kenmore, to the amount of above 100 bolls. A great number of beggars from the neighbouring counties infest the parish, particularly in the summer and harvest months, many of whom are neither needful nor deserving of charity.

Population.—By a late survey, there are at present 2360 souls in the parish, 1135 of whom are males, and 1225 females. Among these are 36 weavers, 22 taylors, 19 shoemakers, 14 wrights, 9 flaxdressers, 7 merchants, 6 smiths, and 2 bakers. There are 1136 inhabitants in the adjacent parts of the parishes of Kenmore and Weem. It might be apprehended that this parish has been greatly depopulated within these 60 years, by the union of farms, and the number of sheep introduced into it; and it must be admitted, that, owing to these causes, the number of the people has decreased considerably in the higher parts of the parish with-
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in that period. But, so far as the population of the parish is to be judged of from the session records, it may be concluded, that it has increased in the lower parts thereof, and particularly in the village of Killin, with the district of country that surrounds it, nearly in the same proportion in which it has decreased in the higher parts. The register of births in the parish has been kept with much exactness during the period specified. from which it appears, that the total number of births in the parish for 60 years, preceding the year 1790, amounts to 6916, at the annual average of 115, with little difference. An abstract of the births and marriages in the parish, for 10 years preceding the year 1790, is subjoined. Owing to the number of places of interment, no register of deaths has been ever kept in the parish.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>
1780	120	17
1781	128	22
1782	107	19
1783	59	21
1784	136	29
1785	120	20
1786	129	24
1787	118	23
1788	115	45
1789	129	30

REGISTER

REGISTER of BIRTHS in the PARISH of KILLIN for 60 years preceding the year 1790, with the Difference of every 10 years; also the Average.

[illegible]

Total number of Births for 60 years, 6916—average 115 $\frac{16}{60}$.

Number

Number of Horses, &c.—The number of horses in the parish is computed to be about 400, and of black cattle from 1780 to 1800. They are mostly of the Highland breed, except a few of the lowland or mixed breed, kept by some of the gentlemen and better farmers. Stocking with sheep is now become so prevalent, that all the extensive grazings in this country are laid under them. The number of sheep supposed to be in the parish, at present, is from 26,000 to 27,000, and all of them of the Linton breed. Since potatoes have become more plentiful, swine have become more numerous. There are about 150 of them at present in this parish.

Mines, Minerals, &c.—The only mine in the parish is a lead-mine, which has been wrought at Carn-drom, in the west end of it, for these 40 years past. But it is given up for the present, which proves a temporary inconvenience to a number of poor people in the village of Clifton, in its neighbourhood, who depended chiefly for their subsistence upon the employment they got in it. There are no mineral springs of any note in the parish. Search has been repeatedly made for coals, but hitherto without success. Peats, and some barren timber, are the only fuel used. Lime-stone abounds in most parts of the parish.

Miscellaneous Observations.—Towards the beginning of the present century, the people of the country were rather averse to industry. The spirit of clanship which prevailed was very unfavourable to it. The different clans spent a great part of their time in avenging themselves of each other; the man who could best handle his sword and his gun was deemed the prettiest fellow; and the attentive industrious man was a character held in a degree of contempt. The people,
in

in general, were consequently poor, rents were ill paid, and sometimes not at all. The family of Breadalbane, who were superiors of the country, adopted very wise plans for its improvement. A Sheriff-substitute was got to Killin for settling differences; a check was given to knavery; the sober and industrious among the people were supported and encouraged; and the turbulent and irregular expelled the country, to which they were so much attached, that it was reckoned no small punishment by them. These means, together with the happy change in the times, have had very good effects. The people of Breadalbane are now sober, regular, and industrious. They are, in general, rather in easy than affluent circumstances. They pay their rents punctually, and live comfortably. Most of the farms in the lower parts of the parish are divided among several tenants. The arable and pasture ground being separated, each has his own division of the arable, and their cattle feed in common in the pasture ground. In this manner they live harmoniously together; and possessions descend, particularly on the Breadalbane estate, from father to son. Gaelic is the language generally spoken in the country; but most of the younger people understand less or more of the English language, and can converse in it. They make a practice, when young, of going for several years to serve in the low country, principally for the purpose of learning the English language. The generality of the people are lively and intelligent, without being turbulent, have a competent share of knowledge, and attend religious ordinances regularly, and with great decorum. Scarcity of fuel, and distance from markets, are the principal disadvantages to which this parish is subject; but the last of these disadvantages is now greatly alleviated by the goodness of the roads leading into it, and passing through it.

NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF ARBUTHNOT.

(COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.—PRESBYTERY OF FORDUN.—SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNs).

By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries.

Situation, Name, and Extent.

THE name of this parish was anciently written Aberbuthenoth, as appears from several old writings extant in the neighbourhood; but whence it could be derived is uncertain, as there is no river, or rivulet, whose influx within its bounds could have occasioned it, if we except one called Fothy or Forthy, which falls into the river Bervy, on the western boundary of the parish; but that rivulet has born its present name above 600 years in the bounding charters of some neighbouring estates. Perhaps the river Bervy, of old, may have born another name, which occasioned the name of Aberbuthenoth, by its influx into the sea, which is about a quarter of a mile below the extremity of this parish.

The parish is nearly of an oblong triangular form, with the exception of two farms which form a projection southward of the water of Bervy, which is the boundary of the rest of that side, dividing it from the parishes of Bervy and Garvock, five miles in length.

Upon the west side it is bounded by the parishes of Fordun and Glenbervy, or the great hollow of the Mearns, the rivers

Bervy and Forthy forming this line of division, for the most part about three miles in length ; and on the north east side it is bounded by the parishes in Glenbervy and Kinneff, about six miles in length, back to the river Bervy, where the southern boundary commenced, forming a sharp angle near the mouth of that river.

Surface.—The surface is unequal, presenting particularly two rising grounds or ridges, with hollows or valleys betwixt them, and the boundaries of the parish on each side, where the ground again rises to still greater height. The one of these ridges commences at the eastern angle, running westward about two miles, where the other begins a little obliquely upon the one side toward the Bervy river, forming a wide hollow betwixt it and the northern boundary, which reaches to the western boundary, and joins the hollow of the Mearns. The narrow valley in which Bervy river runs, is highly picturesque and beautiful, containing the mansions of Arbuthnot and Allardyce, with the church situated between them.

Soil.—The soil is various. Along the southern valley it is strong clay ; upon the rising grounds above mentioned it is light land ; and in the bottom of the northern valley it is wet and swampy, being mostly in rough pasture ; but the fields toward the northern boundary, where the ground again rises, are more dry, and of a lighter soil.

The air, in general, is moist, owing to the nature and position of the surface, its natural wetness and exhalations from the streams with which it is watered ; yet it has never been observed to be particularly unfavourable to health ; and the inhabitants, in general, are of good size, and many of them live to a great age.

Minerals,

Minerals.—Within this parish there are several freestone quarries of excellent quality. In one spot there is a rock full of pebbles, with some green jasper, of considerable beauty. No coal nor lime-stone have ever been here discovered; but some chalybeate springs indicate the presence of iron.

Fuel.—The common fuel of the farmers is coal brought from the Frith of Forth, and landed at some of the neighbouring creeks upon the coast. The fuel of the poorer sort is a coarse sort of turf from the moors, and still a worse peat sod dug from the morassy grounds.

Heritors, &c.—The proprietors are four in number, of whom only one is resident, the Viscount of Arbutnot. By a map of the county, executed in 1774, it appears that there are in this parish 7785 Scotch acres, or 9893, English, of which about one third may be supposed arable, the rest being wet rough pasture and moor. The most of the land lies open. The rent is various, according to the different soils and progress of improvement, from 1 l. to 7 s. 6 d. per acre, arable, with the pasture gratis. The rent of the whole parish is about 1900 l. Sterling, of which a considerable part is victual.

Ploughs.—According to the old manner of estimating the extent of farms by ploughs of four horses, there are here reckoned 54 ploughs; of these there are 14 possessions rated at 2 ploughs each; twenty-two of one plough each; five of half a plough; and 6 of a quarter each. At present, most part of the ground is tilled by the common foot-plough, with four horses, or six oxen, and some of the improved ground with two horses. But oxen are little used for the plough, though

though many are reared for sale. The whole number of oxen ploughs is 13.

The number of draught horses is	228
Saddle, ditto	4
Carriage, ditto	6
	<hr/> 238
Oxen and steers	610
Cows and queys	449
	<hr/> 1059
Sheep	268

Produce.—The produce of the parish is more than sufficient for its own supply. The most general crops of grain are oats and bear, with a little barley and wheat. Turnip and potatoes are likewise very general. A considerable quantity of clover and rye-grass now begins to be sown, though not so much as is necessary to good farming, upon even the improved lands; the ground not being sufficiently rested, and the horses chiefly fed upon straw. Upon the estate of Al-lardyce, very considerable improvements have taken place under the direction and encouragement of Mr Barclay of Ury, now proprietor of these lands. By the leases granted by him for the last fourteen years, the tenants are bound to a mode of cropping the improved ground; to divide it into a course of four, five, or six crops, with a restriction not to take more crops of grain than the rotation of six admitted, viz. turnip, barley, and grass, not less than two years, to be broken up with two successive crops of grain of different kinds each year; and if any of these be wheat, it must be the first after grass. As might be expected, the tenants have chosen to hold the course of six, preferably to the four or five years. (The information in this article is furnished by Mr Barclay himself). By these judicious rules the value of the estate is

so

so increased, that the tenants at present would be able to pay nearly four times the rent that was paid twenty years ago.

A great bar to improvement in this parish, is the want of roads, there being hardly a track in it which deserves that name.

Of late, the practice of farmers letting ground to cottagers who do their work begins to be here laid aside, as every where else through the country; by which, in a short time, there must be a great deficiency of hands properly trained to agriculture; and servants drawn from towns, neither possess that hardy vigour, temperance, nor industry, so requisite to the employment of the husbandman. The ordinary wages of a farm servant, or ploughman, living in his master's family, is from 8 to 10 l. per annum. The wages of a labourer 1 s. per day, without victuals, or 8 d. with them. The women are much employed in spinning coarse flax to manufacturers in Montrose; by which they have, for some time, gained from 3 s. to 4 s. per week. The wages of a woman farm servant is from 3 l. 10 s. to 4 l. per annum, with a considerable difficulty of procuring them from the increased profit by manufactures.

There is a small quantity, from 400 to 500 yards of the coarsest linen manufactured here, and bleached at home. Likewise a small quantity of ticking and facking, from 200 to 300 yards, at 10 d. and 1 s. to 1 s. 3 d. per yard. These are for home use, and for sale at the fairs through the country.

There are no villages in the parish, except about 20 houses in one place, mostly occupied by tradesmen. Tradesmen's wages, such as masons and carpenters, is 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d. per day.

Population.—With regard to population, there has never been

been any exact register of births kept here, and no register of burials at all.

The total number of souls in the year 1774 was 1040; and three years ago it was precisely the same. At present there is only one more.

The number of males is	-	494	
Females	-	547	1041

Of these under 10 years of age, males 104

	females 147	251
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Bachelors, householders,	-	15
Widows	-	47
Widowers	-	15
Gardeners	-	4
Wrights and house carpenters	-	7
Masons	-	2
Tailors	-	5
Shoemakers	-	8
Weavers	-	20
Dyer	-	1
Millers (at 3 corn-mills)	-	4
Smiths (smiths shops being 5)	-	7
Shop-keepers	-	2
Wheelwrights	-	2
Cooper	-	1
Carrier	-	1

There are inhabited houses - 230

Of which inhabited by single persons 27

Houses of 2 inhabitants, chiefly old people, and newly married 35

Of 3 inhabitants - 29

Alc-houses - 2

Uninhabited houses (cause, removal of cottagers) - 6

The

The general character of the people is industrious and sober, little disposed to change of place or employment. Hence the population has been so stationary.

Ecclesiastical State.—With respect to the ecclesiastical state of the parish: The Viscount of Arbuthnot is patron of the church. The clergyman has a living of 64 bolls of meal and bear, and about 42 l. Sterling, besides a small glebe of little value. The present incumbent was settled in the year 1780. The church is a very ancient fabric of ashlar work, but now in very bad repair. The manse is almost ruinous, but is about to be repaired. To the church is adjoining an ayle of beautiful antique workmanship, which was built by an Alexander Arbuthnot, (designed, in the appendix to Spottiswood's History), brother to the Baron of Arbuthnot, and parson of Arbuthnot and Logie Buchan. He was elected the first Protestant Principal of the King's College, Aberdeen, in the year 1569. The lower part of this ayle was intended, and has been used as a burial place for the family of Arbuthnot. And in the upper part was a well finished apartment, filled with books chiefly in divinity, many of which remained there till of late. This was Mr Arbuthnot's library, which he bequeathed for the use of the clergy of the Mearns. There are 42 Episcopalians in the parish, and no other dissenters.

Poor.—The number of poor in the parish is about 20. The provision for them consists of the collections at the church, amounting annually to about 16 l. and the interest of some mortifications and seat rents, amounting to 11 l. 10 s. making in whole about 27 l. 10 s.

School.—The parish schoolmaster has an endowment of 5 l. 17 s. 8 d. Sterling, together with 10 bolls 3 firlots of meal.

meal. This school was formerly noted as a much frequented seminary for boys from all the country round, who were here boarded with the schoolmaster. At present both school and school-house, like all the rest of the public buildings here, are in so bad repair as to be unfit for the reception of any person.

Antiquities.—Under the article of antiquities and antient records, it is generally believed that several interesting particulars might be had from the old writings of the family of Arbuthnot, if access could be got to them. There is in general circulation, in the neighbourhood, a paper, of which the original remains with that family, bearing to be a judicial proof led by an ecclesiastical synod in the year 1206, with respect to part of the property now belonging to them, in which several circumstances are deserving of attention; particularly, therein mention is made of water corn-mills having been of a date prior to that period, which is contrary to the opinion of some of our late historians.

There is no visible remain of antiquity within this parish, except some lines of a rampart thrown up in a regular manner upon a projecting point near to Bervy river, which is said to have been the residence of a family of the name of Gellendris, who bequeathed the property to the Archbishop of St. Andrews, to whose successors a feu-duty is still payable by the present proprietor. But this fortification has as much the appearance of being Roman, and bears the general name of the Castledykes to this day.

Eminent Men.—In former times this parish was not deficient in producing men eminent in public life. The family of Sibbalds of Kair was one of the most antient in the country, possessed of very extensive property there. Among the
last

last of them was Dr David Sibbald, who having been preceptor to the Duke of Gloucester, son to King Charles I. suffered much on account of his loyalty in the civil wars, was imprisoned in London, and had his estate forfeited. However, he lived to see the restoration of King Charles II. and died in his own house of Kair, in the year 1661.

It also deserves to be mentioned, that the celebrated Dr Arbuthnot, physician to Queen Anne, and one of the triumvirate with Mr Pope and Dr Swift, derived his birth and early education from this parish. He was son to Alexander Arbuthnot minister here, who was deprived for non-conformity in the year 1689. Dr Arbuthnot received the first part of his education at the parish school of Arbuthnot, from whence he and his elder brother Robert (afterwards a banker at Paris) removed to the Marischal College of Aberdeen, about the year 1680.

Language.—As the names of the different farms in this parish are, for the most part, of Gaelic original, it would seem that, in former times, the Gaelic language had generally prevailed here. To persons acquainted with that language, these names all appear to be descriptive of the situation and circumstances which distinguish the several places. Much information might possibly be derived from this source, joined to the written evidence connected with the district, where property has been more fixed than in most parts of the county.

NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF TURREFF.

(PRESBYTERY OF TURREFF.—SYNOD AND COUNTY OF
ABERDEEN.)

By ALEXANDER SIMPSON, *Schoolmaster, King-Edward,*
Now one of the Ministers of Old Aberdeen.

Situation.

AFTER a course of many miles from west to east, the Doveron, by altering its direction to the north-west, forms an acute angle; and, winding through a beautiful and fertile vale, continues to flow in that direction, till it falls into the sea at Banff, which is about 10 English miles distant from this place. On the south and east sides of this angle, lies the parish of Turreff, that of Forglen of Old Townan being contained within it, on the opposite bank of the river. Near the angular point, where the Burn of Turreff falls into the Doveron, stand the town and kirk of Turreff, from whence to the extremities of the parish, the distance on all sides, except westward, is nearly the same, and no where exceeds $4\frac{1}{2}$ English miles; so that a circle, of which the town of Turreff is the center, and the radius $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles, will include both this parish, and a great part of that of Forglen. The other neighbouring parishes are Alvah, King-Edward, Monquhiter, Auchterlist, and Inverkeithing.

Names,

Name, Antiquities, &c.—According to some, Turreff, in the Gaelic language, signifies towers. According to others, it signifies a mount or height. The situation of the town, and the vulgar pronunciation, Torra, an old law term signifying a mount, favour the last supposition. But the former is no less probable, because near the church-yard gate, and on the south side of the street betwixt it and the cross, part of the vaults of an ancient tower is to be seen, from which, or some building of that kind, the west end of the town is still called the Castlehill.

It is highly probable that Lathmon, the Pictish prince, whom Ossian celebrates, had his seat in this parish. Not only do Lathers and Durlathers bear a strong resemblance to Lathmon and Dunlathmon, but the landscape drawn by nature exactly corresponds with the description of the poet. We may observe on the bank of the river, “the green “dwelling of Lathmon.” We may wander, with “the blue- “ey’d Cutha in the vales of Dunlathmon;” and the halls of Nuath are only wanting to realise the description of the dying Oithna. “High walls rise on the bank of Durranna, “and see their mossy towers in the stream.” A rock ascends behind them with “its bending firs.” On a farm adjoining to Lathers are the remains of a Druid temple.

A spot of ground on the south side of the town called Temple-brae, and a house called Temple feu give reason to suppose, that the Knights-templars once had a footing in this place. This is the more probable, as some of the old proprietors of this house, held their charters from the Lords Torphichan, to whom a considerable part of their lands had been given by the Crown, after the order of Knights-templars was dissolved in the beginning of the 14th century.—Some houses called Abbey-land, *Maison-Dieu*, or house of refuge, point out the situation of an hospital or alms-house, founded

founded here in 1272, by Alexander Cumin Earl of Buchan. This hospital was, among others, dedicated (*Sancto Congano*) to St Congan, supposed to be the tutelary saint of the place, from whom one of the annual fairs held here is called Cowan Fair. It was endowed with an yearly payment of 5 chalders of grain, instead of the tithes of the Castle of Kenedar, and a piece of land called Knockaibie. This piece of land, according to the description of its situation and marches, in the charter of foundation, comprehended all the lands, except Balmellie, presently allotted to the Mill of Turreff. The hospital was to contain a master and 6 chaplains, whose office it was to say daily prayers for the souls of the dead, and who were to appear in the dress of secular monks. Out of its revenues the master was appointed to furnish with a dwelling-house, and to maintain 13 decayed husbandmen from the country of Buchan. The hospital was to be a sanctuary for criminals; but the master was bound to deliver up for trial all manifest malefactors; and if any of the people of the lands belonging to the hospital (over which the Earl of Buchan retained the right of criminal jurisdiction) should be capitally convicted, their escheat was to belong to the hospital. This charter is dated at Kellie, on Sunday after Candlemas 1272, in presence of William Earl of Mar, Lord Allan Hoftear, Lord Reginalde Chen, Lord Andrew of Gormack, Lord Philip of Melgredum, Meldrum of that ilk, sequestrated by Urquhart of Meldrum, Lord John of Malville, Lord William of Melgdrum, Walter, rector of the church of Foverne, and Robert de Lylie, rector of the church of Slains, &c. By another charter, dated at Kenkell the 16th of October 1328, in presence of Randolph Earl of Moray, Alexander Fraser, Robert de Keith Marshall, Gilbert Hay Constable, &c. it appears that this hospital was farther
endowed,

endowed, by King Robert Bruce, with the land of Petts*, for the maintenance of a chaplain to say mass for the soul of his brother Nigell Bruce, who was taken prisoner by the English, about the year 1306, when the Castle of Kildrummie, where he then resided, fell into their hands, and was by them afterwards put to death†.

Except some traditionary reports concerning a bead-house, which was a reliet of it, there is no farther mention made of this hospital as a separate establishment: Nor is it of much importance to know how far its revenues were applied to the original purposes of its institution. From a clause in the charter of foundation, there is reason to suppose, that the hospital was intended to be under the administration of the parson of the parish. And it is the more probable, that the parsons or prebends of Turreff had been always the masters of the hospital; as it appears from several records, that the lands with which it was endowed by the Earl of Buchan, continued in their possession from the beginning of the 15th century to the time of the Reformation‡.

In 1511, by a charter under the Great Seal, James King of Scots, out of love and favour to Thomas Dickton prebend of Turray, and for building and improvements about the parish kirk of Turray, and the accommodation of the lieges resorting to the said kirk, with consent of William Earl of Errol as patron, creates the whole kirk lands, village, and glebe of the said kirk of Turray into a free burgh of barony; and gives power to the inhabitants to have bakers, brewers, butchers, &c.; with power also to have in the said burgh, free burgeses, and power to these to choose yearly, with consent of the prebend, bailies, and other office bearers, for the government

* In the parish of Fyvie.

† Buch. lib. 8 30.

‡ See Chalmer's Dictionary, at the word Hospital.

vernment of the said burgh ; with power also to the burgesſes and inhabitants, to hold weekly markets at the market croſs on Sunday, and public fairs at the feaſt of St Peter, called Lammas, and of St Congan, with the whole tolls, liberties, and privileges of free markets.—“ *Ac cum poteſtate et licentia præfato magiſtro Thomæ et ſucceſſoribus ſuis præfatae eccleſiæ præbendariis, aſſidandi terras ſuas eccleſiaſticas, villam, et glebam antediſtam in toto vel in parte, in particulas burgales hæreditarie, pro ædificatione ſuper eisdem facienda in proſicium diſtæ eccleſiæ et præbendariorum ejusdem, vel ſaltem ſine detrimento eorundem.*”

Among other privileges, the feuers had the uſe and benefit of ſeveral pieces of land, viz. a piece of land on the banks of Doveron, called Dundabby ; another called Feerward ; another called Feuer-fold ; another called Dargs-fold, or Monks-land ; the haugh called Partyoſe-vale ; two lots of barren ground, called Back-hill and Common-mires, and the black Elden moſs for fuel. Some of theſe they ſtill enjoy.

Church, School, Poor, &c.—A new church has been built here this ſeaſon (1794) in a ſituation removed from the burying ground, and of a conſtruction more commodious for the people, as well as ornamental to the place, than the old church ; the latter, 120 feet by 18. The eaſt end of it, including the quire, chancel, and veſtry, bears ſome marks of antiquity, and was formerly divided from the reſt of the building by a row of balliſters.

Since the admiſſion of Mr William Stuart, the preſent incumbent, in 1767, the manſe and office-houſes have been all rebuilt ; and are at preſent in good repair.

The living, excluſive of the glebe, is 50 l. in money, and 80 bolls of meal and bear.

The

The present school-house was the Episcopal Chapel in 1745, when a party of the Duke of Cumberland's army demolished the seats and pulpit, and were prevented from setting fire to the house itself by the intercession of Mr Andrew Ker, who was then minister of this parish.

About the beginning of last century, in compensation, it is supposed of some privileges of which the feuers and inhabitants of Turreff had been deprived about the time of the Reformation, Lord Errol settled an yearly salary of 100 l. Scotch, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land, for the maintenance of a schoolmaster to teach their children. This salary has been regularly paid by the proprietors of Delgaty, who have the right of presenting to the office. As none of the other heritors contribute in any manner to its support, the school cannot be denominated parochial. As session-clerk, the schoolmaster receives an annual salary of 2 l. 4 s. 3 d. ; for registering a baptism 10 d. of which the kirk officer gets one third ; and for proclaiming a purpose of marriage, 20 d. of which the kirk-officer likewise gets one third, when the bride resides in the parish. The school is at present attended by 30 scholars, who are taught to read English at the rate of 2 s. and Latin and arithmetic at 2 s. 6 d. per quarter.

About the year 1727, Mr William Meston, formerly one of the professors of the Marischal College, but obliged to give up that place in 1715, on account of his political principles, commenced an academy in Turreff, for instructing young gentlemen in such sciences as were then taught in the universities. This academy, which was quite unconnected with the school, continued to flourish for several years. In an account of the life of Mr. Meston, prefixed to his poems, a duel fought by two of the students attending this academy, viz. Mr Gordon of Embo, and Mr John Grant of Dentergas,

Dentergas, afterwards a major-general in the Prussian service; is mentioned as one cause of its dissolution.

The poor's funds are managed by the kirk-session, which meets every fourth month, to distribute to the poor a sum of money proportioned to their necessities, and the state of the fund. A disposition to his effects is generally required of every pensioner, previous to his being entered upon the roll: At his death, they are sold to defray the expence of his funeral; and the balance, if there be any, is added to the general stock.

The number and necessities of the poor were so much increased by the bad crop in 1782, that, to supply them, besides the ordinary collections, some meal sent by government, and 20 l. sent by an unknown hand, the session found it necessary to take 40 l. from the capital stock. By means of more liberal collections in the church, and partly by two legacies of 20 l. each, and one of 5 l. which, agreeably to the will of the donors, were given to poor people not on the list of pensioners, but who would otherwise have become such, the stock is now equal to what it was before the year 1782.

*State of the Receipt and Expenditure of the Poor's
Money in 1793.*

Collected in the church	L. 33	1	8
For the Infirmary at Aberdeen	4	0	0
For a Chapel of Ease at New Byth	3	3	0
For the use of a mort-cloth	2	2	0
Penalties — — —	5	15	0
Interest of 60 l. at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	2	14	0
Rent of houses — —	6	18	4
Effects of a pensioner —	0	12	0
Carried forward	<hr/> L. 58 6 4		

	Brought over	L. 58 6 0
Given to 30 poor	—	L. 31 3 0
To the session, presbytery, and synod clerks, kirk-officer, and presbytery bursary	—	4 11 5
To the infirmary and chapel at New Byth	—	7 3 0
Repairing houses, &c.	—	1 15 0
		<hr/> 44 12 5
		L. 13 13 7

Number of People, &c.—The parish, at present, contains 2029 souls, of whom there are

Episcopalians	—	320	Lint-millers	—	3	
Roman Catholics		25	Flax-dressers	—	7	
Surgeons	—	—	4	Gardeners	—	10
Dyers	—	—	2	Bakers	—	3
Shoemakers	—	36	Blacksmiths	—	9	
Square-wrights & coopers		28	Barber	—	1	
Weavers	—	—	34	Sadler	—	1
Tailors	—	—	18	Bleacher	—	1
Shop-keepers	—	16	Whisky distiller	—	1	
Masons	—	15	Families in the town of			
Excise-officer	—	1	Turreff	—	187	
Plasterers	—	2	Number of souls in ditto		701	
Sellers of ale and whisky		15	Families in the country			
Butchers	—	7	part of the parish		264	
Carriers	—	5	Number of souls in ditto		1328	
Slaters	—	2				

Apprentices are included in the above lists of tradesmen and artificers.

Ancient and Present Proprietors, Rent, &c.—The estate of Durlaithers, which had been long in the possession of Dempster of Auchterles, afterwards of Meldrum of Lathiers of the family of Meldrum of Fyvie, was afterwards the property of John Ramsay of Barra; which, by judicial sale in 1722, was purchased by Alexander Gordon of Auchintoul a general in the Russian service; whose grand niece, Miss Catharine Gordon of Auchintoul, is now the proprietor. In 1723 the estate of Balquhollie was sold by the Mowats, the proprietors of the ancient Mount Alto, to Alexander Duff of Hatton, a man of great character in the country. Lady Ann Duff, who was married to Alexander his son, is life-rentrix of Balquhollie; and his grandson, Captain Peter Duff, is the present proprietor of Hatton.

In 1726 the estate of Fintray, then the property of the Forbeses of Touchon, was bought by the late Lord Bracco, father of James Earl of Fife, the present proprietor.

The estate of Torrie, which had remained in the possession of the Barclays for 400 years and upwards, was sold by them in 1752 to the late Earl of Findlater, at 10,000 l. whose son sold it to the managers of Gordon's hospital and the infirmary of Aberdeen in 1792 at 21,000 l. Sterling. Except the lands of Fintray already mentioned, part of the estate of Castletown, which is the property of William Urquhart of Craigston, and part of the estate of Balquhollie, all that part of the parish to the north of the burn of Turreff, and east of the Doverne, called the estate of Delgaty, is the property of Captain Francis Garden of Troup, and was bought by his father, Peter Garden, Esq; from the late Lord Errol in 1762, at 20,000 l. and is now of rent about 1400 l. yearly. In 1767 the estate of Muireisk was sold by James Brodie to Alexander Dirom, Sheriff substitute of Banffshire, at 5700 l. whose son, Major Alexander Dirom, is the pre-

present proprietor. The estate of Gask, which belonged of old to the Forbeses, and more lately to the Fordyces, was sold by the daughters of John Fordyce of Gask to James Mackie in 1769; who sold it to George Robinson now of Gask, writer to the signet, the present proprietor, in 1781. This estate has been an independent barony of itself for several centuries. It appears upon record, that in 1375, it belonged to the Turins of Foveran, who flourished in Aberdeenshire, in the days of King Robert Bruce. Afterwards it came into the family of Burnet of Leys. Thomas Burnet of Gask was killed at the battle of Flodden; and King James V. renewed the gift of the lands to his son William, then, and on that account, declared a gl. land of old extent; on whose retour, A. D. 1514, does the present proprietor of Gask hold his freehold at this day. On this place is lately built a modern house, in a pleasant situation, beautified with planting. Within the last 40 years, the land rent of the parish is supposed to be doubled, and to have increased more within that period than for 200 years before. This, among other causes, may be ascribed to the practice of giving an additional yearly rent at the commencement of every new lease, instead of a grassum, which was the general practice before the middle of this century.

The valued rent of the parish is 5459 l. 2 s. 10 d. Scots; and the real rent, valuing meal and grain at 10 s. for each boll of 8 stone Amsterdam weight, is about 2800 l. Sterling.

Services, or work done by the tenant to the heritor in harvest, and on various other occasions, not improperly called *bondages*, also the payment of sheep, poultry &c. called customs, still constitute a great proportion of the rent of some estates. The commutation of these into money, which has already taken place in the estates of Fintray and Torvie, it is hoped will be soon universally adopted. Exac-
tions

tions of this kind, particularly the first, are burdensome to the tenant; without producing any adequate advantage to the heritor.

Extent, Soil, Agriculture, &c.—— The parish contains about 16,896 Scotch acres, of which one third at least is covered with heath. The hills and heath ground being ridged, appear to have been under cultivation at some former period; at least that partial kind of it, called *balk and burral*, which consisted of one ridge very much raised by the plough, and a barren space of nearly the same extent, alternately. A much greater quantity of this sort of land was in tillage before, than since the years of famine in the end of last century; when many entire farms, of a wet or late soil, were allowed to lie waste and uncultivated. Since the introduction of lime and agricultural improvements, the above method of managing out-field land has been relinquished; and small black oats, which was the only species of grain sown in this kind of land, have given place to white oats.

The current of the Doverne being less rapid below than above the town of Turreff, the haughs and meadow ground along its banks are more extensive and fertile. Though the parish contains almost every description of soil, that species called a light loam is most common. Part of the lands in the vicinity of the town lets at 40 s. per acre. The medium rent of land in the country part of this parish is nearly the same as in the neighbouring parishes, and may be known by consulting the statistical reports of them.

Compared with what it was 20 years ago, the state of agriculture is now much improved; at the same time, the want of inclosures, the prevailing practice of keeping too great a proportion of land under crop, and the extent of barren ground, show that much remains to be done.

That improvements have not made greater progress, the small stock of the greater part of tenants, the shortness of
leases

leases (of which the impoverished state of land at the beginning and expiration of them is the natural consequence,) the price of labour, and the distance from market, may be assigned as the principal causes. Under all, or a few of these disadvantages, it must require the strictest economy, and the greatest exertions of industry, in the tenant to succeed at all; his improvements at first must be very circumscribed; and, as every future essay must depend upon the success of the preceding, their progress must be slow.

For many years past the powers of lime in promoting vegetation has been known, and the quantity put upon land, for that purpose, is annually increasing. But, long after its first introduction, the method of cropping land, after the application of lime, retarded rather than promoted the melioration of the soil. For a field after being limed, by having three or sometimes four crops of oats in succession, without the assistance of dung, was necessarily reduced to a more impoverished state than before. But experience soon taught the impropriety of a practice, which no doubt arose from considering lime not as a stimulus, but as a manure, and is now adopted by those only of narrow circumstances, and whose views reach no farther than a little present profit, or an indemnification for the price of the lime.

The quantity usually given to an acre varies from 40 to 80 bolls of powdered lime*. It is, perhaps, a fortunate circumstance, that lime has hitherto been applied to land so sparingly; for 80 bolls, which is not more than what is necessary to have the desired effect when accompanied with a proper rotation and interchange of green crops, would, by a contrary management, render the land unfit for producing a crop of any kind. For some years past, the importation of shell lime from England has been gaining ground; which
at

* Each boll of stoked lime is equal to two corn firlots.

at 6½ d. per boll is found to be cheaper than what is manufactured at home of stones carried the distance of 12 or 14 miles.

Upon the whole, though a regular and judicious rotation of crops is not generally established, and though much of the old system of farming remains, it gives pleasure to observe, that the spirit of improvement is rapidly extending its happy influence. The advantages of fallow and green crops are generally known, and the number of acres under turnip, potatoe, and sown grass is annually increasing. In different parts of the parish, farms are to be found, which exhibit specimens of extensive improvement and skill in the management of them. Of these none has a juster claim to be particularly mentioned, than that of Haughs of Ashogle, possessed by George Gerard of Atidstrath. In the year 1780, when his lease commenced, the produce of the farm was hardly sufficient to maintain the servants and cattle necessary to work it. Since that time, upwards of 200 acres, of which a great part was formerly entirely barren, and the rest in a very impoverished state, have been brought to produce weighty crops of corn and grass. The rotation adopted by Mr Gerard, is oats, turnip, and sown grass for three or four years. The produce of this farm, which in the year 1780 was only 900 threaves, amounted to 2700 threaves in the year 1790. By the melioration of the soil and pasture, the number of cattle has been increased, and the breed improved in the same proportion. In 1780 the hill pasture, which could then maintain a flock of sheep of the Scotch breed only, the medium value of which did not exceed 6s. a head, now maintains a flock of a mixed breed in the proportion of 2 English to 1 Scotch, the wethers of which give from 18s to 20s. each.

In a similar manner, the farm of Mains of Torrie is managed by Mr Irvine; and extensive improvements begun by

the

the late Mr Dixon. Farming is carried on with equal spirit by Mr Gordon, who occupies the Mains of Muirest, and this is a good cause why the price of the estate was so considerable. In no estate of the parish is there a set of more thriving and substantial tenants, than in that of Fintray; where agricultural improvements, though less rapid in their progress than in the instances now mentioned, which employ a greater capital than the majority of tenants can command, have been no less successful.

The parish is accommodated with 7 corn mills, to some one of which the tenants of a certain district, called the *sockcom* or *sockmen*, or *sucken*, are astricted. The multure consists of three kinds; one called the *thirlage*, collected for behoof of the heritor; another called *knaveship*, which properly belongs to the miller for working and keeping the machinery of the mill in repair; and a third called *dry* or *abstracted multure*, collected for grain sold unmanufactured. At some mills, the two first amount to $\frac{1}{4}$ part of the produce in meal, and the third is generally $\frac{1}{4}$ of the grain sold, and this is the practice generally through Buchan. Some of the heritors, considering the *thirlage* and *abstracted multures* as too heavy a tax upon improvement, have allocated them upon their tenants, and fixed the *knaveship* at $\frac{1}{4}$ part of the grain brought to the mill and taken 4 s 6d. on the pound of real rent for abolishing the multures. Besides supplying it self, the produce of the parish in all ordinary years leaves a considerable surplus for exportation. The lateness of the harvest, and the early frosts in 1782, gave reason to suppose that the crop of that year would be defective; but, accustomed to a plentiful supply in general, that deficiency was not at first supposed to be so great as it afterwards proved.

Upon the 1st of January 1783 a meeting of the proprie-

tors of the district of Turreff, or their factors, and of the ministers of the following parishes, was held at Turreff for taking into consideration the state of the country, with respect to grain, and reported, that

	<i>Bolls.</i>	<i>Bolls.</i>
Turreff could spare	200	0
Monquhiter	needed a supply of	9000
Forgue could scarcely supply		
itself	0	0
Fyvie	500	0
King-Edward, spare a little		
Drumblade	0	800
Auchterlefs		200

From which it was computed that these parishes would need a supply of 1200 bolls. But, instead of sparing any, it was found that this parish alone needed a supply of 600 bolls; and all of them, Monquhiter and Drumblade excepted, needed as much more than was reckoned. Grain from England, which the peace, concluded in 1783, gave them an opportunity of purchasing in greater plenty, and at a cheaper rate, than had the war continued, was imported by societies, merchants, and gentlemen of landed property. For the benefit of his tenants in this and the other parishes with which he is connected, Lord Fife purchased grain to the amount of four thousand pounds, which was sold at a very reduced price, and his Lordship's example in selling the meal paid by his tenants at 16 s. per boll, and giving 5 s. in the pound

* A Gentleman in the neighbourhood told me that he purchased this year from Mains of Gask, a considerable quantity of oats for seed; part of it gave tull meal for oats, was approved of by judicious farmers, and part of it applied for seed did not vegetate.

pound of deduction of rent, had no small effect in regulating the price of that article, and keeping it within the reach of the poor that year. For many years past, cattle have been the most profitable part of the farmers stock, and the staple commodity of the parish. The number of black cattle, annually reared in the parish, is supposed to exceed what it was 40 years ago, in the proportion of 3 to 1. Turnip and sown grass, which are more commonly applied to rearing for the drover and grazier, than feeding for the butcher, together with a greater demand from the English market, have been chiefly instrumental in promoting the breeding of young cattle. The parish can spare from 300 to 400 yearly. Though the breed, both with respect to size and the quality of wool, is much improved, the number of sheep, kept at present in the parish, is perhaps not above one sixth of the number which it contained half a century ago.

The breeding of cattle, and particularly horses, would be carried to greater perfection, and attended with more profit, were the fields more generally inclosed. Though it can boast of producing many excellent draught and saddle horses, yet a great part of these, used in the parish, is brought from other parts of the country.

By a stronger breed of horses, and a more improved construction of ploughs, carts, and other implements of agriculture, its operations are now greatly facilitated, and the increasing price of labour in some measure compensated.

	1744.			1774.			1794.		
	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
Hire of a ploughman <i>per ann.</i>	1	8	8	4	10	0	7	10	0
Ditto of a woman farm servant	0	18	0	1	10	0	2	15	0
Ditto of a man for harvest	0	11	4	1	9	0	1	15	0
Ditto of a woman for ditto	0	8	9	0	17	6	1	3	0

Corn fans and threshing machines, of which last there are
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already three, one turned by water and two by horses, begin to be introduced into the parish.

Peat and turf are principally used for fuel. Though there is very little of it in the parish, most of the people have a right to moss in some of the neighbouring parishes; a right which heritors were formerly careful to secure to their tenants; when the moss to which they had such right is exhausted, which is the case with respect to some estates in this parish, recourse is had to coals, broom, or to buying peat at the rate of 10s. 6d. for a *spade's casting*, i. e. for as much peat as can be laid and dried upon 480 ells square. The more expeditious methods of carrying on work do not now, as formerly, make it necessary to employ the whole summer in bringing home fuel; nor, since improvements in farming began, can so much time be afforded for that purpose; but the time necessarily consumed in providing peat, and the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient supply in wet seasons, make this a very expensive article, and point out the propriety of the late salutary repeal of the coal tax.

Mr Garden of Troup, who in many respects shews a laudable desire of encouraging agricultural improvements and promoting the good of the country, has lately inclosed and planted with forest trees about 600 acres of barren ground on his estate in this parish. Plantations of the same kind, though less extensive, have been made on the estates of Laithers, Muirsk, and Gask. At Balquhollie, called Hatton Lodge, there is a considerable quantity of wood of a more advanced growth; but it will be long before the parish can supply itself with this article.

One of the greatest disadvantages of this parish is the want of stones; of which few are to be found above ground fit for building, and of which, there is only one quarry of any consequence as yet discovered. Hence the want of inclosures,
and

and substantial houses, for though they are more commodious and substantial than in former times, except those of the more opulent farmers, very few houses in the country are built entirely of stone.

Manufactures, &c.—Next to cattle and grain, the articles for which money is brought into the parish, are linen-yarn, either made of lint of the growth of the country, or of foreign lint given out to be spun by manufacturers; stockings made of wool given out by manufacturers, or of wool bought by the makers and sold to merchants, called market or cargo hose; cheese and butter. For some years past great quantities of the last article have been bought up by merchants in different parts of the country, and sent to Edinburgh, and other large towns.

About the year 1769, a carpet manufacture was established here, which was carried on with success for several years, and was not entirely given up till about 1780.

In 1767, Peter Garden, Esq; of Beigaty and one Mr Baker began a thread and linen manufacture, and also laid out a field, and erected houses and machinery for bleaching linen. The partners finding themselves losers, the linen manufacture was dropped about ten years after. A manufacture of thread, which generally employs about 10 hands, is still carried on; and about 400 or 500 pieces of cloth were whitened at the bleachfield last season. In the year ending November 1793, about 666 yards of linen, and 6696 yards of harn or brown linen were stamped here for sale. Of the first kind, it is supposed that more than the quantity here specified, and of the last, scarcely one third, was then made in the parish. At present, one weaver only makes linen for sale on his own account; the rest, as well as all the other handicraftsmen, depend upon the casual employment of the country around,
and

and have small pieces of land, which employ the greatest part of their time.

That the attempts to establish manufacturers in this place have hitherto failed, cannot be ascribed to any local disadvantages. Situated in a healthful and pleasant country, surrounded with a great extent of fertile and improveable land, having the command of abundance of water, and the privilege of nine yearly fairs, Turreff seems to be well calculated for carrying on any branch of manufacture with success. Being distant only ten miles from the ports of Banff and Macduff, the expence of fuel cannot be mentioned as an obstruction, which a spirit of industry and enterprise may not easily surmount.

Mr George Robinson of Banff has revived the manufactory begun by Mr Baker; and Mr Kemp, near Turreff, has begun a thread manufactory, on the estate of Gask in the vicinity of Turreff.

N U M B E R XXVIII.

PARISH OF MORTLACH.

(COUNTY OF BANFF.—PRESBYTERY OF STRATHBOGIE,
SYNOD OF MORAY.)

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE GORDON, lately Minister there, and
now one of the Ministers of Aberdeen.*

Name.

THE name is very ancient. About 800 years ago, in the charter given by Malcolm the Second to the first Bishop of this early See,—and how long before, no body can say, it was called Murthelack or Murthlac, much the same as at present.

Etymology.—The word is most probably of Gaelic origin, derived from something local. Because the church is in a deep though narrow valley, some naturally enough think it a corruption of Morlay, Great Hollow. Others again chuse to bring it from mortis lacus, the lake of death; alluding to a battle which was fought here, and which shall afterwards be taken notice of. But this seems only a fancy of Buchanan, and is far fetched: More conjectures have been made, and on the whole the etymology is doubtful: Luckily however, like many an obscurity of the kind, it is of very little importance.

Situation.—Mortlach is encircled by six other parishes, having Glas on the east, Cabrach and Inveraven to the south, Aberlour on the west, with Boharm and Botriphny towards the

the north ; and several of these, it is not unlikely, are the offspring of the mother church. It is in the county of Banff, in the Commissariat of Aberdeen, and in the province of Moray ; lying nearly 50 miles to the westward, but a little to the north, from the city of Aberdeen, and about 30 south west from the town of Banff, the capital of the shire. Since the 1706, it has been, by an act of the General Assembly, in the presbytery of Strathbogie and synod of Moray : Before that time, it was in the presbytery of Fordyce and synod of Aberdeen : And in a connection with Fordyce, the minister of Mortlach, it is said, has still a vote for delegates, from that presbytery, to elect the professors of Divinity of King's College of Aberdeen, and has also some trust and management in certain lands or sums of money bequeathed to that university.

Extent, &c.—The form of the parish is irregular, and not easily described, so as to be understood. The best idea of it would be obtained by a map from actual survey. Its greatest length from the head of Glenrinnnes to the opposite end, near the Spey, that is from south to north, is eleven or twelve English miles ; and its greatest breadth from the banks of Doyeron to the foot of Belrinnnes, that is from east to west, may be about as much. It consists of the lands of Edinglassie and Glenmarky, which are Lord Fife's,—of the Lordship of Auchindown, Glenfiddich, and the greater part of Glenrinnnes, the Duke of Gordon's,—of Dullanside and a part of the Lordship of Balveny, Lord Fife's again,—and of the barony of Kinninvie, which is, and for centuries has been, in the possession of a branch of the old family of Balquhan, and of which James Leslie, Esq; the only residing heritor, is the present laird, and makes a very good one, being kind to his tenants, an honest hospitable gentleman, and an excellent farmer.

farmer. Mr Duff of Drumuir is likewise a proprietor in Mortlach, having a small piece of ground in it, called Loch-end, near the kirk of Botriphny.

The arable fields, which, by a rough guess, may be from 4 to 5 thousand acres, lie chiefly pretty high along the Fiddich and Dullan, two beautiful rivulets; or on the sides of hills falling into these; or on the more gentle declivities of the mountains. The lands of Glenmarky and Edinglassie are remote and disjoined from the rest of the parish. A small stream called Marky, running with rapidity down the glen, meets with the Doveron near the house of Edinglassie, where that river takes a pleasant winding towards Huntly on the east. There are some low or haugh grounds, but not very considerable. The extent of meadow grass, coarser greens, moor, and hills,—which last are in general covered with heath, and but little improveable except by planting, may amount to about twenty times as much as the cultivated field.

Landscape—The appearance of the country is very fine. Variegated with hill and dale, wood and water, growing corns and pasture covered with flocks, it looks both beautiful and rich: And even in winter, the trees skirting the river banks with their snowy foliage, and the lofty mountains all in white, exhibit a diversity of view abundantly pleasing and grotesque. Fiddich-side is one of the loveliest straths to be seen in any country. There are some landscapes, especially in Glenfiddich, and about Pittyvaich, Tinniver, and Kinninvie, which any one, who has a taste for such things, will not grudge a day's ride or two to come and see. They are a mixture of the sweet and the wild; and furnish a great deal of picturesque and very rural scenery: If a Thomson or an Allan Ramsay had lived here, they would have been famous in song. One of the most remarkable is the Craig of Balveny, with the
old

old castle there, and the objects which accompany them: What goes by the name of the Giant's Chair, formed by the wearing of the water of Dullan many an age ago, with a pretty little cascade, called the linen apron, and their surrounding drapery, is another.

Soil and Air.—The soil is almost intirely of the loamy kind, deep enough and fertile: Any exception of its inclining either to sand or clay is scarce worth the mentioning. The air is pure and wholesome, though it is rather moist than dry; and fair weather is sometimes enjoyed on the farms below, when there are fogs or rain, or perhaps snow, on the heights around: But this is no doubt more or less the case in every highland situation; though many a remark must one make in an account of this nature, equally applicable to a shire or even a larger district, as to a parish.

Health, Spirits, Ages, &c.—The writer of this knows of no distemper peculiar to the parishioners of Mortlach; nor of any, which can be said, above all others, to be prevailing; and on the authority of a Physician, who has long known the country and the people well, he can with the greater confidence say, that there are none. Here, as in other places, while many of the ailments of the more affluent proceed from their living in luxury and too freely, to colds and too scanty a fare, may those of the lower class be frequently traced. There are no instances of very extraordinary longevity: But many arrive at the age of 70, some to 80, and one now and then, though rarely, to 90 or upwards. The inhabitants may be said, on the whole, to be lively, active, and vigorous; though from the backwardness of the seasons for several years, and other difficulties in the way of their getting a comfortable subsistence, both the spirits and strength of the ordinary farmer

mer and the labouring man are weaker and worse than they were, it must be owned,—and owned with particular regret; for such men, engaged with heart's ease in the healthful pursuit of agricultural employments, are the very nerves and permanent riches of a country.

Springs.—Here are several steel or chalybeate springs; and some of them pretty powerful. One, in particular, near the old castle of Auchindown, has been found, on chymical examination, very much to resemble the Peterhead water, and to be as light as it. They are of use in gravelish complaints and disorders of the stomach. There is likewise, below the house of Kinninvie, a spring of a petrifying quality, on the limits between Mortlach and Boharm.

Rivers.—Fiddich and Dullan, the two little rivers of this parish, have been already mentioned. Dovern is much larger than either of them. But Mortlach can scarce claim any property in it; as it only borders, for a few hundred yards, upon one of its extremities. Fiddich rises in Glensiddich, towards Strathdon; and Dullan, in Glenriances, on the boundaries of Glenlivet. They join a little below the kirk, near the house of Tininver, and fall into the Spey about 4 miles below. After their confluence, Fiddich is the name. Their whole run may be about a dozen or fourteen miles each; and there is good angling for small trout, in plenty, on them both.

Lake.—From the public road, leading from this to Botriphny, may be seen, on the left, in a den confined by two almost perpendicular hills, a small but deep lake, called Lochpark, the source of the Isla, which flows into Dovern in the parish of Rothiemay. It is frequented by wild ducks, and is

said to have pikes in it. It belongs to Drummuir. Among the mountains, which encompass the parish, except an opening to the north, Bellrennis towers conspicuous. Its height above the sea, from which it makes a good land mark in sailing into the Moray-frith, is above 2650 feet; and from its base, about 1680.

Quadrupeds.—Besides the tame and domestic quadrupeds, which are every where, here are foxes, weasels, hares, some badgers and otters. In the forest of Glenfiddich, there is abundance of red deer—a thousand and more with a few roes. The farmers round it think them by far too numerous; And yet 40 or 50 of them sometimes in one flock, with their stately carriage and branching horns, on the tops of those sylvan and romantic hills, make a noble view. The Duke of Gordon has a summer residence in this glen, as a convenience for fowling, and taking a shot at the deer.

Birds.—The shelter and accommodation of the woods bring together a great variety of singing birds, making an aviary of nature, the most innocent and melodious of all, happy and unconfined. The black-bird and thrush, gold-finch, bull-finch, linnet, and robin, blend their notes, and compose a delightful concert. Many other birds there are, but none of them uncommon. The migratory cuckoo, green-plover or lapwing, and the swallow, pay their annual visit, and are always welcome. For the sportsman, there are moorfowls or grouse, partridges, and a few snipe; The black-cock also is to be met with in Glenfiddich, and some ptarmigans have been seen on Belrennis.

Minerals.—There is a sufficiency of moorstone for the purpose of building, with some slate quarries of a dark grey colour

lour and pretty good : And the vast quantities of limestone here would be an exhaustless treasure to the husbandman, if the expence of fuel were not so high, as nearly to prohibit the use of it. There is the appearance of allum and vitriol, and likewise of a lead mine, on the burn of Tullich, which belongs to Kinninvie. In one or two places, there is a laminated rock, which some think of the nature of whetstone or hones: A kind of marble also there is, both on Dullan and Fiddich side: And, in several parts, the surface of the ground would seem to indicate, that there are coals below, any discovery of which kind judiciously prosecuted would be of the greatest consequence both to the comfort of the people, and the improvement of the lands; for they are rather far from the sea, and many of them too poor, to reap any general benefit from the late repeal of the coal tax, the nearest port, at the mouth of the Spey, being about 16 miles distant from the centre of the parish.

Population.—From the list of baptisms, and the recollection of the oldest residents, it would appear that Mortlach was more populous 50 or 60 years ago, than it is at this day. In the 1782, on an accurate survey for the information of the Barons of Exchequer, in the view of an approaching scarcity of grain, the inhabitants of every age amounted to 2169; of whom there were about 560 under twelve. Ten years afterwards, in the 1792, when again, in like manner, exactly taken by the same incumbent for this statistical account, the number was found to be 251 fewer than in the 1782, being in whole but 1918—of whom 901 were males and 1017 females, and of whom also there were,

Under

Under 10 years of age	—	412
From 10 to 20	—	398
— 20 to 30	—	304
— 30 to 40	—	251
— 40 to 50	—	230
— 50 to 60	—	145
— 60 to 70	—	113
— 70 to 80	—	53
— 80 to 90	—	11
— 90 to 100	—	1
In all		1918

These occupied 415 houses, for every family had its own separate dwelling, making between 4 and 5 at a medium in each, though very unequally divided, some as large as 18 or 20, including husband, wife, children, land servants, and some as small as one. Such solitary householders, however, and such numerous families were both but few.

Of the above 415 houses, farmers might be said to possess 176; and crofters, or cottagers, the remaining 239: And on the lands of the several proprietors, the proportions of the people and their habitations were as follows:

On the Duke of Gordon's	927	in	193 houses.
— Lord Fife's	761	in	176 ditto
— Kinninvie's	226	in	45 ditto
And on Drummuir's	4	in	1 house.

As before 1918 in 415 houses.

The subjoined statement of births, for 30 years, from the 1st of January 1763 to the 31st of December 1792 inclusive, arranged in 3 equal periods, is taken from the parish register, and is thought tolerably correct. An allowance may be made perhaps for 2 or 3 being omitted every year.

In

In 1763	28	In 1773	39	In 1783	48
1764	29	1774	41	1784	46
1765	46	1775	39	1785	33
1766	46	1776	61	1786	32
1767	45	1777	55	1787	35
1768	39	1778	50	1788	19
1769	55	1779	47	1789	39
1770	47	1780	42	1790	27
1771	38	1781	43	1791	31
1772	48	1782	56	1792	33
Total	421	Total	473	Total	343

So the average for the first 10 years, is $42\frac{1}{10}$, for the second, $47\frac{1}{10}$. Here it may be remarked, that the rule for finding the population, by multiplying the births by 26, seems from this instance to be exceedingly erroneous, for the product of such multiplication would not in the present case be the half of the reality. The decrease in the last 10 years is very observable, and is probably to be ascribed to the calamitous eighty two. The difference betwixt the 1766 and the 1788 in the foregoing table, the baptisms in the one being more than three times as many as those in the other, will also strike one : And for this difference no satisfactory reason can be assigned. It is likely, that, in the latter of those two years, the effects of the 1782, which reduced the country in general to much want and a train of consequent distresses, were at their height ; that the greatest number of emigrants had then left the parish, in search of employment and maintenance, among the farmers towards the south or in the manufacturing towns ; and that, after that period, they began to return, to find home more comfortable, and to increase. Such is the attachment to one's native soil, that it is seldom deserted but either from necessity or the gratification of an ambitious desire ; and as soon as circumstances will permit, or the passion is cured, it is commonly resorted to again. Of
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an old acquaintance, whether an agreeable friend or a favourite scene, it is natural to be fond. Early or established propensities are with difficulty removed, and it is hard to be put to the trial of eradicating in a distant land, the sweet remembrance of happier days.

In the register of marriages, there is, through some negligence or other, a chasm, which prevents from going farther back, with any precision, than the last 20 years; viz. from the 1st of January 1773. to the 31st of December 1792. But this shall be done, as under, in two equal periods.

<i>For the first 10 Years.</i>			<i>For the second 10 years.</i>		
In 1773	—	12	In 1783	—	17
1774	—	15	1784	—	17
1775	—	16	1785	—	18
1776	—	14	1786	—	17
1777	—	13	1787	—	16
1778	—	21	1788	—	14
1779	—	17	1789	—	17
1780	—	16	1790	—	14
1781	—	24	1791	—	17
1782	—	16	1792	—	18
<hr/>			<hr/>		
164			126		

Or 16½ marriages annually. Or 12½ marriages annually.

Each marriage, at a medium, may produce 4 or 5 children. There is no register of deaths or burials kept.

The number of men servants is 135, and of women servants 102 or thereabout; all for the purposes of husbandry or the care of children. This number may seem small. But many of the farmers have their sons and daughters to assist them; and servants wages have risen to such a height, that they must do with as few as possible.

The handicraftsmen are,

22 Weavers,	4 Coopers,
11 Masons,	2 Dyers,
10 Shoemakers,	2 Slaters,
6 House carpenters,	2 Wheel-wrights,
5 Smiths,	1 Plough and cart wright,
5 Tailors,	1 Harness maker,

in whole 71 : And they have almost all of them a few acres along with their houses. The number of apprentices is about 20. There are likewise 4 sho. keepers, 2 innkeepers, 3 distillers of whisky, 3 gardeners, 3 meal-millers, 1 lint-miller, and 1 saw-miller.

Agriculture.—Agriculture is on the improving hand : But short leases are the bane of every improvement. Who in his senses would make a farm more valuable, at his own dear expence, only to induce another to cover and to bid for it ? or if no such offerer should interfere, to tempt the proprietor, who in general is sufficiently apt to yield to those temptations, to take the advantage and squeeze too high a rent from his tenant, grown fond of the possession, and thus incautiously standing on very unequal ground ? Some of the farmers are giving very good example, by dressing their fields with green crops, often in drill, or by a fallow ; laying them down with grass seeds, and introducing a proper rotation : But winter herding is not yet much relished ; and till it be the practice, a man's fields, when in turnips or clover, are but half his own. There are very few complete inclosures, though on several farms, and particularly Pittyvaich, a good deal is done in the way of dikes and hedges too. The ploughs may be reckoned about 170, some of them of 8 or 10 good oxen, others of good horses, generally 4, but the greater part made up of horses

horses and oxen mixed together, both of a very indifferent kind. There are 3 or 4 wains or waggons drawn by oxen, and ploughing with a pair of horses is introduced. The grain raised here is oats, bear, or barley and pease: A very small quantity of either rye or wheat, though for the latter, both soil and climate, in various parts of the lands of Balveny and Kinninvie, are well adapted. It is reckoned good and sufficient bear, which weighs about 18 stones the boll Banffshire, which is nearly the Linlithgow measure or standard for Scotland: And 16 pecks or a boll of oats, in a favourable season, will yield about 8 stones of meal. Potatoes also are raised, and found very useful. And there is some flax; the experiments of which show, that it might turn out a profitable article, if the management of it, after being pulled, were better understood, and if there were a ready market. It is at present but a bye kind of a crop, and therefore neglected. For want of skill and attention in the grafting, watering, and milling, it is often much injured. Failing in success through bad usage, it unjustly receives the blame; and the farmer is discouraged from extending his attempts.

This parish, which is a plentiful one, after supplying itself, can, in the opinion of some of the most intelligent on this subject, spare, in ordinary years, about a thousand bolls of bear, and five or six hundred of oats and oat meal. The oat seed season is from the beginning of March, or sooner, if the weather will allow, till towards the end of April. And bear is sown from the middle of April, to near the end of May. Barley harvest, generally speaking, begins about the first or second week of September; and the oats may be said to be reaped in the month of October, though sometimes earlier and often later. Early oats, which have been much and beneficially used since the 1782, ripen almost in the same time as the bear. After the winter snows, however, or heavy rains, there

there must be the difference of 8 or 10 days, at least, in the time of sowing, in the different parts of this extensive country; and even the same kind of grain, sown in the same day, will be ready for the hook several weeks sooner in Balveny and Kinninvie, than in Glenrinnies and Glenmarky. In this view, Auchindown and Edinglassie have an intermediate place, being neither so early as the two first of those districts, nor so late as the other two *.

Cattle and Pasturage.—As to the live stock here, there will be about 2000 black cattle, from 300 to 400 horses for plough, cart, and harrow, 4000 or 5000 sheep, some goats, and a few swine about the mills and distilleries. The black cattle are of the middle sized and handsome highland breed; the ox from 5 to 8 guineas, and the cow worth 4 or 5, as the prices happen to go. Many of the farms, having plenty of summer grass, are well suited for cattle and corn too. There are also some very good sheep-walks, one of the best of which is in Glenmarky. The ewes and lambs, which are mostly now of the black-faced Linton sort, sell from 5 l. to 7 l. the score; and wedders much about the same: But all such calculations must be understood with a little latitude, and as only there and thereabout. It is impossible to make them otherwise. The white-faced sheep, who may be stiled the *aborigines* of the country, are wearing out; and yet, tho' smaller, they are allowed by many to yield both the sweeter mutton and the finer wool. Wool sells from 10 s. to 16 s. per stone, according to the quality and demand; but the stone consists, it seems, of 22 lib. Dutch; one instance, among a thousand, of the great propriety of simplifying our

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* The average rate of an acre is about 10 s.; and the farms are of many a different size, from a 5 l. rent, and even less, to 70 l. or 80 l.

weights and measures, and making them every where alike, by the same general standard. The breeding of horses is but little practised here, though it would probably answer very well. As a specimen, some have lately been reared to the value of 15 l. and 20 l. Sterling.

Woods.—There are several plantations of firs in Mortlach, and some of them full grown, the property of Lord Fife and Kinninvie; in whole from 300 to 400 acres; and about the like quantity of natural wood, chiefly aller and birch. The oldest fir wood is on a piece of rising ground, planted about 60 or 70 years ago, then arable, and so fertile as to be called the *meal-girnel* of Tininver, of which farm it was a part, and still is. It seems it has then been the opinion, that a rich mould, if not necessary, was at least very favourable for such a purpose; though it is since known, that firs will prosper in wastes fit for nothing else. Some elms, planes, and oaks, have thriven pretty well. One old oak, in particular, in the Craig of Balveny, though not a very large tree, has a respectable appearance. The ash, too, appears very congenial to the soil, and shoots up luxuriantly; and, amidst the trees of native growth, there is a great variety of shrubs, many of them flowering. There is, however, an ample scope for planting here; and, when it is set about, attention will no doubt be paid to the useful and beautiful larix. If coal be not discovered, timber, as a fuel, will, ere long, in many parts of the parish, be a much wanted *succedaneum* for the exhausted mosses.

Language.—The language is a dialect of the Scottish and English blended together. There is hardly a word of Earls now spoken in any part of the parish: If any where, it is in Glenrinnnes, where the inhabitants do also most retain the
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look, manners, and genius of the Highland Caledonian, as appears from their dress, their vivacity, their social and merry meetings, their warm attachments, their keen resentments, their activity on occasions, and indolence on the whole, their intelligence, and their love of their country.

Names of Places.—The names of places, except such as are of late cultivation, are all Gaelic, and commonly descriptive either of the situation or of some noticeable circumstance. Of this, examples would be needless. Let the two rivulets suffice. *Fiddich*, or *Fiodhich*, means woody; and its banks are almost covered with trees. *Dullan*, or *Tuilan*, signifies rapid; and it tumbles from pebble to pebble almost all its course,

Rent.—The real rent of this parish, which arises entirely from lands, is 2000 l. Sterling and upwards. Some necessary information on this head having been withheld, from a jealousy of an improper use being made of it, it cannot be exactly stated; But the valued rent, as taken in the year 1690, is 3900 l. Scotch.

Farm-houses.—There is neither town nor village in all the parish; The whole is country. The Kirktown of Mortlach is only 2 or 3 houses on the glebe, or about the church. The farm-houses are getting a more decent look than they had; and it is to be hoped they will yet mend in this respect. They are built for the most part of granite stone, and thatched with straw. A few, however, are slated; and several gentlemen farmers, some of whom have retired from the army, beating their swords into plough-shares, have both their dwelling houses and offices very substantial and commodious. It were to be wished that heritors would be some-

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what more liberal in granting an allowance for meliorations of this sort. Under proper limitations, much advantage would accrue from it, both to their tenants and themselves too.

Religion.—The parishioners are all of the Established Church, except about 30 or 40 Roman Catholics, perhaps as many Seceders, and 1 Episcopalian. Any ill-will or violence of temper, arising from a difference in religious sentiment, is rare.

General Character.—As to the character of the people at large, much may justly be said to their praise. Like the people of other districts, they are not without their faults; and there are some instances of great worthlessness, almost in every parish, to be regretted. It here obviously occurs, that a minister may be induced, from various motives, to go to the extreme of truth, on the favourable side for his flock. His regard for them may blind and mislead him; or, by condemning them, he may think that he obliquely condemns himself; at least, if another did it, he might perhaps be led too readily to think so. Few chuse to depreciate their own importance; few to diminish the happy effects of their pastoral care; and fewer still are inclined to render themselves ungracious. Thus it may often place a clergyman in a delicate situation to be obliged to characterize his parishioners; and, though a man of honesty and resolution would, in any necessary case of the kind, immediately determine that he is to speak or write the truth, yet such characters, which in general will be found to be only an indiscriminate repetition of the same and the same good qualities, are surely to be received as probably partial. But, unless there be an egregious delusion indeed, it can be told with pleasure and with the strictest impartiality, of the people of Mortlach, that,
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with few exceptions, they are, and long have been, industrious, honest, neighbourly, sober, and humane; peaceable, orderly, and affectionately attached to the free and glorious constitution of Britain; decent in observing the ordinances of religion, and rationally impressed with the great end of them all, as aiding and subservient to piety of heart, uprightness of conduct, and purity of life. If some of them be still too much given to *frets*, or superstitious remarks, they are commonly of the harmless kind.

Inoculation.—One thing, however, truly to be lamented, is their yet too great dislike to inoculation for the small-pox, the neglect of which, though it is in use rather more than it was, makes this very infectious and virulent disease frequently mortal; and it is the more difficult to overcome to unfortunate a prejudice, as, in a great degree, it has its origin in conscience, however erroneous and misinformed. But, it is to be hoped, both for the sake of their children, and as an expression of their thankfulness to God for so gracious a discovery, that they and others around them, for they are not singular, will soon see this matter in another and juster light, and cheerfully, with a dependence on success from Heaven, embrace the benefit of so kind a mean afforded by Providence. They are, in general, much disposed to cheerfulness and contentment, but keenly alive to a sense of injustice, rigorous exactions, or any species of oppression whatever. That they have a martial genius, there is little doubt; but our ordinary wars, it appears, do not call it forth; for they are not fond of a military life: Indeed, the business of a soldier is held rather in low estimation among them. They seem to consider it as poor, dissipated, and slavish. As to size, strength, complexion, abilities, or any other personal or mental qualification, there is here nothing remarkable.

Ministers,

Ministers.—The writer of this was minister of Mortlach, being the fourth since the revolution from August 1781 to December 1793; when he was translated to Aberdeen or St Nicholas; he is married, and has four sons. Mr George Grant, who was one of the ministers of old Machar, has succeeded him, a bachelor. As to his predecessors, Mr Shaw's History of the Province of Moray will inform those who have the curiosity to know.

Patron and Stipend.—The Crown is patron. The stipend is 63 l. 2s. Sterling, including in that sum communion element money, one chalders of bear and two chalders of oat meal at 8 stones per boll.

Glebe.—There are five or six acres of a glebe, with a pretty good orchard and kitchen garden, pleasantly situated on the bank of the Dullan.

Manse and Church.—The manse has been a spacious one in its day, but is now going to wreck, and must soon be either rebuilt, or have a thorough repair. The church is indeed venerable, but it is only because it is old; having none of that magnificence, nice architecture or elegant decorations, which we so justly admire in the more modern cathedrals of after times. Tradition reports that its walls are the very same as in the beginning of the eleventh century; and they are so strong that it is thought they might stand for hundreds of years to come: But the roof, which it got about 80 years ago, is ruinous. The doors and windows, and the simplicity of the whole edifice bear witness to its age. The windows are long narrow slits of six feet high, and only 10 or 11 inches wide on the outside, but so much sloped away as to measure at their utmost projection ten or twelve feet within. And as
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its shape, that of an oblong square of about 90 feet by 28, is a very inconvenient one, as a place of public worship, both for the speaker and hearers, it will probably be found advisable to get over the veneration for its antiquity, and new model it into a more convenient form. The choir on the east end, where the music was, and where the altar also would be, is 27 feet long, and a few feet higher than the rest of the building. Here the door to the organ loft is still to be seen; and on the ridge of the choir, is what they call the Three Bishops, a pyramid like stone of little show, with the semblance of a face on each of its sides, right rudely cut. It has been said that the effigy of Bishop Bryn is to be seen in the wall near the *postern* door; whereabout it is imagined the tomb of the three first bishops might be found under a vault: But this, as to the effigy, is not the case. And for the tomb, there has been no search; nor are there any effigies in the church, except one at full length, over the door which leads from the choir to the Leslie's Aisle or burying ground, with no inscription, but called a predecessor of the Kenninvie family, and celebrated as a man of marvellous gallantry; and two half lengths, Alexander Duff of Keithmore and Helen Grant of Allachie his spouse,* on the south side of the choir, with a Latin inscription; all in freestone and basso relievo. There is another inscription in marble†, on a monument of Mr Hugh

Innes

* Great grandfather and great grandmother of the present Earl of Fife.

† Copies of the two Inscriptions.

Hoc conduntur tumulo, reliquæ Alexandri Duff de Keithmore et Helenæ Grant uxoris suæ charissimæ. Qui quadringenta annos et ultra, felici et sæcundo connubio juncti, vixerunt. Uterque quidem ingenue natus; ille ex nobilissimis Fife Thanis per

Innes first presbyterian parson of Mortlach after the Revolution. It is in the wall, beside the minister's seat, under which he was buried *. There are likewise some very ancient looking grave stones with Saxon characters, below the seats and in the passages ; but it would take a great deal of trouble to make out what is upon them, and, except to a patient and inquisitive antiquary, the labour would perhaps be very ill repaid †.

School.—The school is very useful ; but the schoolmaster,

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per vetustam familiam de Craighead, paulo abhinc superstitem proxime et legitime oriundus ; illa ex splendida et potenti Granteorum familia, eodem quaque modo originem trahens ortu non obscuri, suis tamen virtutibus illustriores ; opibus affluerunt, et liberis ingenue educatis, florere pie, juste et sobrie vixerunt, et sic in Domino mortem obiere. Illa anno Domini 1694, ætatis suæ sexagesimo.

M. S.

Mri. Hugonis Innes, filii honorabilis viri Johannis Innes de Leichnet, qui, cum, annos triginta quatuor, sacra in hoc templo peregrisset, obiit anno Christi 1733, natus annos LXXVIII. Posuit hoc monumentum pia ac dilectissima conjux Eliz. Abernethie filia Domini de Mayen.

* This gentleman, it is said, was possessed of a considerable share both of bodily strength and personal courage ; and, in those days, if various anecdotes which are told of him be true, it seems he had occasion for the exercise of these qualities, in the discharge of his clerical functions.

† On the banks of the Dullan, a little below the present church or ancient cathedral, appears the foundation of a house, overgrown with grass, which would be walked over with little notice, if one were not told, that here was the bishop's palace : And not far from thence is a part of the public road, on the opposite side of the same rivulet, leading to the east, called Gordon's cross ; the first design or use of which cannot now with certainty be discovered ; and suppositions are endless. It might be for some religious purpose, or it may have been a market place. A round stone, which is thought to have been the pedestal of the cross, remains to be seen.

as in most other places, is poorly rewarded for his trouble: Mr Alexander Thomson, the present one, has been long much esteemed as a teacher, and is a very deserving man. The whole emoluments, including salary, fees, a donation by Duff of Dipple, with perquisites as session clerk and keeper of the register, amount to but about twenty guineas, for which, besides the other duties of office, a most faithful charge is taken of 30 or 40 scholars, at least, through all the year.

Moir's Bursaries.—There are four bursaries at the King's College of Aberdeen for boys educated here, an endowment which is a great encouragement, and has been of important service to many young men in the parish, and merits particular notice. It is a privilege indeed, which, for the sake of the parishioners, will no doubt be always most sacredly preserved. They arise from 600 l. Sterling, bequeathed to the above university, between 30 and 40 years ago, by Dr Alexander Moir, an Auchindown man, and for some time the parish schoolmaster, for the education of four boys annually at the College, from this school, to be recommended by the minister. If two or more boys should happen to be sent at the same time, the best scholar; other things equal, is preferred: But if only one goes, he is entitled by use and wont, and writings explanatory of the will, without any competition, to the benefit of this legacy; if found *habile* or fit for being received at a college at all, and if attested by the parson of Mortlach as a proper boy and from this school, for there must be one bursary to be given away every year. Dr Moir died in St Croix, where he had made his fortune, which was handsome, as a physician.

It is said that Dr Lorimer of London, a native of this parish and extremely fond of it, means to give a sum of money

for another burse to the boys of this school : And if at the same time he could think of the schoolmaster, and leave any thing for him, it might be of much utility, as an inducement to a proper man either to come or to continue in the place.

The Poor.—The number on the poors roll, at an average, is from 50 to 60, and the funds for their relief, being the produce of all the collections in church, except the yearly one for the infirmary of Aberdeen, and the interest of 1000 l. Scots, a bequest of the same Duff of Dipple who left a thousand merks for the school, do not exceed twenty pounds per annum : So it is only a small assistance, and not a support which can be derived from them. But even in the 1782 no body perished for want ; though many were on short allowance : With some savings of former years, laid out in purchasing white pease, almost the only grain then to be got, and the help of some meal from government, a shift was made to meet the succeeding crop. And, most luckily for the poor, the prices for spinning linen yarn, the chief employment of the women in this part of the country, were then very high.

Price of Provisions and Rate of Wages.—Provisions of all kinds are considerably dearer than they were about 20 or 30 years ago, some articles a third, and others a half, and they are still rising in their value. The prices at present are so much similar to those which will be mentioned in the neighbouring parishes that it is needless to be particular : And the same may be said of the rate of wages, whether for artificers, servants, or day labourers. Of the three, however, farm servants have come to the most extravagant pitch. Indeed as to the labouring man at sixpence a day with his victuals, when married and with a few young children, it is rather surprising

prising how he makes out at all, considering that he cannot get work all the year round, unless the winter season be uncommonly mild : Much, especially for clothing, must depend on the industry and economy of the wife ; and after all, on their small and honest earnings, one would imagine there is a portion of such a blessing, as, in the days of old, there was in the widow's barrel of meal and cruife of oil.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—It may be remarked as a peculiar advantage to this parish, that it is plentifully supplied with timber, both for the purpose of building and for all farming utensils, chiefly within itself, and partly from its vicinity to the Spey, which floats down conveniently and at an easy expence, the trees of Glenmore and other highland forests, on the banks of that stately river : And, as to its natural disadvantages, it has few or none, but such as are almost inseparable from an inland and mountainous situation.

Meliorations.—But, undoubtedly, the condition of the people might in many respects be made better,

Services.—Services or bondage, as a part of the value of their lands, do still disgrace the rentals of some of the heritors : And though they are required with great indulgence, and not nearly to the extent of the obligation in their tacks, yet they hang over the heads of the tenants, like a depressing weight, and ought most certainly to be abolished.

Multure.—Multure, or astrictions in the way of thirlage to any particular mill, should also be reasonably converted, and done away. The farmer would then go with his victual, wherever he pleased, and have nothing to pay but to the operative miller for his trouble and expence. Thus it would become the interest of the workman, and it is always safest to make interest and duty go together, to grind the corns well, give

give ready service, and not to overcharge ; and it would also be the interest of the farmer to go to the nearest mill, if properly conducted.

Leases.—Leases ought to be longer than they are : The longest just now is nineteen years.

Roads.—Our bad roads are a great inconvenience and a great loss ; and very bad they are in general, except where it is almost impossible to make them so. They are much neglected, and never will be tolerable, it is to be feared, till either the statute labour be commuted, or turnpikes established. The people turn out to this work with reluctance, because they do not experience the benefit of it ; for, by unskilful management, the roads are often worse rather than better of all they do : And the overseer, loth to impose a hardship on those who are generally his neighbours, or to offend them, is too easy in his duty ; and, on the whole, their work is a mere farce. The difficulty of providing fuel is another evil. Cutting, setting up, and leading home the peats and turfs occupy the greater part of the summer, from the end of the bear feed to the beginning of harvest.

Fuel.—Coals must be the remedy for this. Even with our present roads, it is allowed, by those who have made the trial, that they are the cheapest firing : And if the roads were good, or, which would be better still, if one might indulge the idea of a canal, there would be a most comfortable relief in this requisite article.

Game Laws.—The game laws, though not immediately connected with agriculture or the necessities of life, are loudly complained of, by numbers in this part of the country, as a heavy grievance. It is thought exceeding hard, that a man
dare

dare not shoot a hare or a partridge, on his own farm or in his own garden, but like a poacher or a thief; and that others may come and do so at his very door, to his great mortification, and perhaps to the injury of his crop.

Surely the tax on licences of this kind can be no mighty object for the revenue; and it aids in supporting and rivetting this purse proud and unjust procedure. In truth, those arbitrary acts are the vilest vestige of feudalism and aristocracy now remaining in our free and happy land; and it is to be suspected that Britain may one day sadly mourn their effects: For nothing can have a stronger tendency to enervate and enslave the inhabitants of any country, than a prohibition of the use of arms, to which these laws eventually do amount. In the time of need, they will neither know how to load nor fire. And, if ever an invasion should come upon us, we will be able to do but little in our own defence. Instead of lounging over the coals in an idle morning, inactive and spiritless as he now must do, when the operations of husbandry are arrested, by the frost and snow, the peasant, sportsman, and there is no inconsistency, especially in the highlands, in one's being both, was wont to range over the fields and hills, with his dog and his gun, in manly exercise, which gave health to his body and vigour to his mind. On this subject, it is frequently observed, and the observation seems just, that there was greater plenty of all sorts of game before these confinements than since. And the reason is pretty plain. Every body almost then had an interest in destroying hawks and other ravenous animals, and likewise in taking care of the eggs and young in the spring; whereas now, as they are to have no share either of the pleasure or profit afterwards, to use no stronger language, they are entirely careless and indifferent about the matter.

Miscellaneous.—There was an uncommon mortality in this parish

garish in 1763, occasioned by a putrid fever; and, during the rage of the disease, the frost was so very intense, that it was necessary to kindle fires in the church-yard to soften the ground for digging the graves: In the month of January Mr Walter Sime the minister was one of thirteen corps unburied at the same time.

Balveny house may be admitted here, a large and modern mansion, one of the seats of Lord Fife, and built by his father, about a quarter of a mile below the old castle, which will be mentioned soon. It has a flat roof, and is covered with lead.

It is a pity that this house is so ill set down, and that it has no inhabitants. Lying naturally too low, the architect has contrived to sink it lower still: And yet, with the association of life and plenty and cheerfulness within, it would communicate the sensation of a very shewy and pleasant dwelling. but, as it is, it looks solitary and forlorn.

Within this century, the mode of living is much altered here, and not to the better: On the whole it is not so strengthening. The drinking of whisky instead of good ale is a miserable change, and so likewise is the very general use of tea. These put together have been exceedingly hurtful both to health and morals. Hence too many become *tipplers*, neglect their business, and go to ruin: And hence it is thought that consumptions, stomach complaints, and a multiplicity of disorders, which go under the name of nervous, are more frequent than they were. It will probably be considered as a pretty curious fact, that instead of two or three tea kettles, about 60 or 70 years ago, perhaps one for the laird, another for the parson, and a third for the factor, there are here now two hundred at least. But while these remarks must be made, as impartiality requires, it is agreeable, on the other hand, to observe a circumstance of a very different aspect. Some time ago, the country hereabout was too much given to the indulgence

gence of a litigious spirit, a spirit, which, wherever it prevails, will not fail to sour the temper, waste the substance, and corrupt the principles of honesty : But now a law suit is scarcely heard of among them ; and when any little difference arises, they refer it to a friend or two in the way of amicable decision. This happy alteration is owing partly to dear bought experience ; and partly to the removal of a judicatory at Keith, a village within a few miles of them, where a substitute of the sheriff of Banffshire was wont to hold his meetings and dispense the law, and where some pettifogger or other was never wanting to foster, if not to instil, an inclination to a process, as often as he could. A blessing when abused is converted into a curse, and now the people find, that though they are farther from the court, they are nearer to justice. To Keith, they had frequent occasions for the post office, or the shop or the market, and if the smallest disputable trifle happened to be rankling them at the time, the coal was blown ; and they came home, buoyed up by their counsel, with the assurance of ample satisfaction and all their expence, though the affair generally ended in their pockets being picked, and their peace and good neighbourhood destroyed. A cause not worth a groat, on either side, has been known to be contested for years, through all the rounds of the most quibbling and tedious forms, and to cost each of the contending parties pounds instead of the original pence.

Mortlach, though it has not much to show that it is a favourite of the mutes, claims a relation to two Scotch songs of no little vogue, Roy's wife in Aidedvallah, and Tibby Fowler in the Braes. There are some old men yet alive who remember to have seen the heroine of the latter. She lived in the braes of Auchindown, and was a plain looking lass with

with a swinging tocher. The Glacks of Ballach, mentioned as the scene of the former, is a narrow and remarkable pass, near the old castle of Auchindown, between this parish and the Cabrach. Both ballads are said to have been composed by disappointed woers.

Antiquities and Families of Note.—There are two old castles, in this parish, well worthy of notice. Auchindown, or Auchindune, and Balveny: And when a stranger is travelling through this part of Scotland, for curiosity or pleasure, they deserve his attention, and will contribute to his amusement. Less than an hundred years ago, both were inhabited. When they were first built, it is not known, or by whom. The castle of Auchindune stands on a green mount of conical shape, over the Fiddich: Its situation is bold and commanding. In the central apartment of the building, there is a piece of admirable workmanship, in grand and gothic stile. It has been in the possession of the family of Gordon since 1535; and of that name, there have been both Knights and Lords of Auchindune. Before that period, it belonged to the Ogilvies; and, with all its barony, was a part of the Lordship of Deskford. Balveny castle is another very magnificent structure. It is placed on a beautiful eminence, on the banks of Fiddich likewise, a little below its confluence with the Dullan, and has a variety of charming scenery in its view. Tradition calls the oldest part of it, for it has evidently been built at different times, a Pictish tower. In days of old; it successively owned as its masters the Cummings, the Douglasses, and the Stewarts; and, after them, passing through several other families in the 16th and 17th centuries, it became the property of Duff of Bracco about the year 1687, and is now the Earl of Fife's. In the 1446, there was a Lord Balveny of the

the name of Douglas. In the front, and high over its iron and massy gate, which still remains, is a motto of the Stewarts, Earls of Athol, descriptive of the savage valour and unhappy circumstances of the times. FVRTH. FORTVIN. AND. FIL. THI. FATTRIS. The situations of both these ancient fortalices are well chosen for defence. They have also had their walls, their ditches, and their ramparts, and have been strongly fortified by art. For prints of them, and more minute observations, see Cordiner's Remarkable Ruins, No. 11. and 12. Such objects, presenting themselves to the eye, lead the mind to reflect on the transitory nature of human things, and inspire a contemplative and melancholy pleasure. Although now they are ruins, they were once the scenes of festivity and triumph. Many of distinguished fame, though chiefly as warriors, have dwelt within them, for warlike feats were almost the only accomplishments, which, in the days of their glory, conferred renown.

There was another old building here, though of inferior note, at Edinglassie: One occurrence about it, however, is very memorable. In 1690, the year of the engagement on the haughs of Cromdale, some of the highland clans, on their march from Strathspey, through Mortlach to Strathbogie, and in a connection with the public dissensions of the day, burnt this house: For which, the laird, whose name was Gordon, took his opportunity of revenge, in their return a few weeks after, by seizing eighteen of them at random, and hanging them all on the trees of his garden*: A shocking instance of the miseries of a civil war, and also perhaps of the tyrannical and detestable power then too often exerci-

* There is a piece of moor-land on the estate of Edinglassie, called the Highlandmen's *moor*, where it is currently said they were all buried.

sed by chieftains or haughty landholders, over the property, liberty, and lives of their fellow men, for either without any trial at all, or with a mere shadow of one, they condemned even to death, by *pot* or gallows. It is well known, that the abuses of these hereditary jurisdictions became so intolerable, that they were put an end to, by an act of Parliament, in the reign of George II. and a great and happy reform it was.

On the declining side of a hill, bordering upon this parish, betwixt Glenrinnes and Glenlivet, the battle of Glenlivet was fought, on the 3d of October 1594. The Earls of Huntley and Argyle were the leaders of the two armies, of whom the latter, according to some accounts, brought 10,000 men to the field. Huntly was victorious, though his numbers were, it is said, but as 1 to 10. Many a gallant man was killed. Adam Gordon's cairn, on the side of the burn of Altonlachan, is a testimony of the place on which he fell. He was Sir Adam of Auchindune, and Huntly's uncle. Argyle was only 19 years of age, of a resolute and noble spirit, and felt severely on the defeat. For the cause of this battle, and its more particular circumstances, see the History of the Family of Gordon, &c.

Battle of Mortlach.—In the year 1010, Malcolm II. obtained, in this parish, that signal victory over the Danes, which has ever since given the place a superior degree of fame, and makes it respected as classic ground. Human nature is inclined to regard, with a peculiar reverence, the very spot of earth on which was of old transacted any remarkable event. Malcolm had been beat the year before by the Danes, and was obliged to leave them in possession of the lands of Moray. Anxious, however, to expel such intruders, he now returns upon them from the south, with a powerful force; and the Danes, having intelligence of his motions, came forward

ward to give him battle. The armies get one another not far from the church of very little to the northward of it they engage, beginning of the attack, while pushing on with impetuosity, Kenneth, Thane of the Isles; 1 of Laudian; and Graeme, Thane of Strathern, fortunately slain. On the loss of three of their generals, the Scotch are struck with a panic, and go into confusion. Every thing was now in a most doubtful suspense, and too likely to be decisive. The King, who has the character of a brave, sensible, and pious man, is most reluctantly borne along with the retreating croud, till he was opposite to the church, then a chapel dedicated to Molocus. The narrowness of the passage here abated a little the career of the pursuing Danes; the flying army got a minute to breathe; and, from the very situation of the ground, were again almost necessarily collected. On a mere incident, a presence of mind, or a happy thought, under providence, often depends the fate of war. The monarch was seized, perhaps from the very appearance of the consecrated walls in that aera of superstition, with a devotional impulse. He prays, pays his homage to the Virgin Mary, and the tutelary saint, according to the manners of the times, makes a vow, is inspired with a confidence of the aid of Heaven, and addresses himself, in an animating speech, to his countrymen and fellow soldiers. It was the critical moment—his crown, his all was at stake, and the Danes were a cruel enemy. He immediately takes the lead; presses on the foe; throws Enetus, one of the Danish generals, from his horse, and kills him with his own hand. Without a certain degree of enthusiasm, there is nothing great to be done. The charge, without delay, is generally and vigorously renewed; and, under the mingled influence of patriotism and religion, the Scotch carry every thing before them, and

and win the day : And a bloody day it is reported to have been, though a glorious one, for Malcolm and his victorious troops. Some think that, for conveying its celebrity to future ages, was erected the stately obelisk still standing at Forres. Certain it is, that soon after the Danes finally left the kingdom. There is an appearance, that the second and finishing conflict, after rallying, happened a few hundred yards to the south west of the Castle of Balveny ; and probably the more ancient part of that building was then in existence ; for a fort is mentioned as near the field of battle. Perhaps it will be expected, that the stratagem of stopping the course of Dullan for a night should be taken notice of here, and the letting it down in a prodigious torrent on the surprised Danes, thought to have been drawn up on each side of this little river, by which their army is said to have been divided, and to have become an easier conquest. Such a thing may have been, and, from the present face of the ground, is not incredible ; for the rivulet runs, about an English mile above the church, in a very contracted channel, between high rocks ; and beyond that there is a most capacious basin, for the water to flow quietly back for a long time indeed. But if such a manoeuvre was practised at all, it is more likely that it had been on some other occasion than that of the engagement just now related. See Fordun, Boece, &c.

As traditional and pretty sure memorials of this famous battle, are pointed out ;

1. The vestiges of an intrenchment, very distinct at this day, on the summit of the little Conval-hill, called by the neighbourhood the Danish Camp.

2. A number of tumuli, or cairns, supposed to have been collected over the bodies of the fallen.

3. A huge and irregularly roundish stone, formerly, it is said, on the grave of Enetus, but now rested a few ells from

its station over the corpse, and made a part of a fence about a field of corn; where it is denominated the *Aquavine Stone*. To account for this appellation, and to prevent antiquarians from puzzling their brains with dark and learned hypotheses in time to come, it may not be improper to tell, that the men, whose brazen strength removed this venerable tenant, finding it rather a hard piece of work, got, as a solace for their toil, a pint of whisky, out of which, immediately, around the stone, they took a hearty dram. Every body knows, that, in Scotland, whisky and aquavite are the same.

4. A square bit of ground, almost covered with whins, into which multitudes of the dead were tumbled. This is very near the north-west corner of the fir-park of *Tompson*, and about 120 yards or so from the above stone, almost directly south.

5. The length of *Malcolm's* spear added to the church, at the west end, in performance of a part of his vow. It has been the spear of a *Goliath*, 23 or 24 feet long.

6. Three holes, exactly of the shape of skulls, in this additional and votive part of the house; yet to be seen; where the heads of three *Danes* of distinction had, with too barbarous a triumph, been originally built in the wall. At whatever time, or in whatever way, three skulls may have first been put there, there they surely were; and, not longer than about 30 years ago, was the last of them picked out, and tossed about by the school boys.

7. A standing stone on the glebe, having on two of its opposite sides some rude and unintelligible sculpture.

Human bones, broken sabres, and other military armour, have been at different times accidentally discovered in this part of the country: And in plowing the glebe, about 40 or 50 years ago, there was a chain of gold turned up, which looked like an ornament for the neck of one of the chiefs.

Bisshopric

Bishopric of Mortlach.—It is clear, from the evidence of history, that on this occasion, by the pious gratitude of Malcolm, and in fulfilment of a sacred engagement, Mortlach was exalted to Episcopal honours. One Beyn, or Bean, was, by Pope Benedict, made its first bishop, who, about 30 years after, died, and was buried here. Donortius was the second, and next to him came Cormac. These two, between them, enjoyed their preferment more than 80 years, and, on the death of the latter, succeeded Bishop Neftan, the fourth and last of Mortlach; for in his fourteenth year, he was translated by King David I. to Aberdeen, which soon got the name, and became the seat of the diocese. And thus Mortlach, from a dignified bishopric, sunk into an humble parsonage. The see was at Mortlach 129 years, from 1010 to 1139*. Bishop Ramsay of Aberdeen, in the year 1246, appointed 13 prebendaries, of whom the 7th in order was the parson of Mortlach.

* Its jurisdiction and revenues were but small, comprehending no more than the church of Mortlach, the church of Cloveth, and the church of Dulmeth with all their lands: But, in regard to precedence, it was the second in Scotland, that of St Andrews being the only one before it, which extended over all the kingdom, and whole bishop was then designed *Episcopus Scotiae*, or *Episcopus Scotorum*.

NUM.

N U M B E R XXIX.

PARISH OF FORRES.

(COUNTY OF BANFF.—PRESBYTERY OF FORRES.—
SYNOD OF MORAY.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN M'DONNEL, Minister.

Situation and Name.

FORRES, a royal burgh, situated upon the Moray Firth, gives name to this parish. It lies in the synod of Moray, and is the seat of the presbytery of Forres. Forres, as anciently written, is of Celtic origin, signifying its situation upon the sea.

Extent and Boundaries.—The form of this parish is irregular, approaching nearest to a triangle, with a stripe of moorish and hill ground, about three miles in length, stretching from one corner. It is four miles in length, and about two and one half in breadth; bounded upon the north by the bay of Findhorn, a large basin of shallow water, formed by the meeting of the tide and the river Findhorn; on the north-east by the parish of Kinlopp; on the east and south by the parish of Rafford. On the south-west and north north-west, by the river Findhorn, which divides it from the united parishes of Dyke and Moy.

The

The south and south-east parts of this parish are hilly, covered with short heath and furze. The rest is one continued rich arable well cultivated field.

Climate and Prospect.—Forres, in point of situation and climate, is inferior to no part of Scotland. The air is dry, serene, and healthy. The town, being built upon a rising ground, about a mile from the Bay of Findhorn, commands an extensive prospect of a rich and well cultivated country, interspersed with the seats and improvements of many of the neighbouring proprietors. Less rain falls here than in most other parts of the kingdom, the showers being attracted by the Moray Frith on the north, and on the south, by the hills which divide Moray from Strathspey.

Church and Stipend.—The value of the living is 98 bolls of bear, 20 bolls of meal, and 490 pounds Scots, a glebe of 4 acres, and manse and office-houses. The Earl of Moray is undoubted patron. The church was built in 1745. Its dimensions, within walls, are 72 by 36 feet; and it contains 1800 people.

The heritors of the parish are the Earl of Moray, Sir James Grant of Grant, Robert Urquhart of Bandsyards, Alexander Penrose Cumming of Altyre, John Gordon of Grushop, Dunbar of Grarye, Leslie of Balnegeith, Urquhart of Tannachy, and Mr Strahan of Drulmduan, with some small proprietors, holding of the town of Forres.

All these, except Lord Moray and Sir James Grant, have their residences within the parish.

Population.—From an actual survey lately made, the number of inhabitants was found to be 2987; of which number there are,

Males

Males	1341	2398 reside in the town
Females	1646	589 reside in the country.
	<hr/> 2987	<hr/> 2987

The number of inhabitants in 1774, appears, from actual surveys, to have been 2793, so that there is now an increase of population of 194.

The number of births, during a period of 11 years, from 1779 to 1789 inclusive, is 895; 453 males, and 442 females, being in the proportion nearly of 41 to 40, and the average 81.4.

Upon an average of the last 11 years, the number of marriages of persons residing in the parish is 15 annually.

There are many persons now living in the parish of 80, but none whose age exceeds 92.

There are 18 farmers residing in town, and 43 in the country, many of whom, especially those in town, hold very small possessions.

56 Shoemakers	4 of whom reside in the country.
33 Weavers	8 ditto.
25 Taylors	2 ditto.
6 Blacksmiths	
58 Journeymen and apprentices.	

Trade.—There are in Forres 60 merchants and shopkeepers. These were formerly principally supported by travelling and vending their goods in all the villages and market towns to the west and north, particularly Sutherland, Caithness, and Ross, and as far as Orkney. But this intercourse is in a great measure now rendered unnecessary, as in all these countries they have got stationary shopkeepers, who

can retail their goods nearly upon as low terms as the merchants of Forres.

Manners.—About 50 years ago there were only 3 tea-kettles in Forres; at present there are not less than 300. The blue bonnets of Forres were then famous for good credit, and at that period there were only 6 people with hats in the town; now above 400. Happy for our country did we keep pace in virtuous improvement, with the extravagant refinement adopted in dress and manners. About 30 years ago, 30 s. would have purchased a complete holiday suit of clothing for a labouring servant; according to the present mode of dress, it will require at least 5 l. to equip him.

Rate of Wages.—About the year 1750, a servant engaged for harvest had 4 d. a day with his victuals; now 10 d. with two meals. For the whole time of harvest then, he had 10 s. now 25 s. A journeyman mason had then 1 merk Scotch, without victuals, now 20 d. A labouring man servant had, at the above period, 15 s. 4 d.; now from 2 l. 10 s. to 3 l. 10 s. in the half year. A woman servant then had 8 s. and 4 d. and some 10 s. half yearly; now from 18 s. to 21 s.

Ecclesiastical State.—There are no sectaries in Forres, except a few Seceders. They are not upon the increase.

Productions of this Parish.—The soil and climate of this parish will produce any crops that can be raised in any part of Scotland. Harvest begins the first week of August, and towards the end of that month, even during the late rainy seasons, it becomes general. It is no uncommon thing, in
this

this neighbourhood, to cut down barley in 12 or 13 weeks after the time of sowing it.

Poors Funds.—About 125 persons receive charity from the church and poors funds, many of whom are heads of families. Amongst these there is annually divided about 40 l. arising chiefly from the collections made at the church doors. But the poors funds have been lately considerably augmented by a donation left by the Rev. Mr Alexander Watt, late minister of this parish, of about 200 l. Besides the above sums, there is 15 l. annually divided amongst the poor of Forres, being the interest of money left under the direction of the Town Council.

Price of Provisions.—About the year 1750, beef and mutton sold in the markets at 1 d. per lib. and fish for 1 d. per dozen; oat meal for 8 s. per boll of 9 stone; wheat for 11 s. and barley for 10 s. Our market is plentifully supplied with every article of provision, beef and mutton at 3 d.; fish, at an average, at 6 d. the dozen of haddocks, and salmon at 4 d. the lib.; pork, from 3 d. to 4 d.; lamb and veal from 4 d. to 4½ d.; butter, from 7½ d. to 9 d. per lib.; and cheese 4 s. to 4 s. 6 d. per stone. The lib. of butter 24 oz. and 16 lib. to the stone.

Schools.—In the town of Forres there is a grammar school, with a salary of 20 l.; and, from the abilities and attention of the present teacher, it has acquired a great character. Latin, Greek, French, and the various branches of the mathematics, are taught with great success; and a young gentleman may have board and education for 20 l. *per annum*. Besides the salaries given to the public teachers, the Magistrates give some small donations to those who keep private schools,

schools, to encourage them in their attention to their charge. There is likewise an English school, separate from the grammar school; the teacher has a salary of 15 l. *per annum*, and every encouragement from the magistrates that can render his situation comfortable. The price of education in this town, as in every other part of Scotland, is very low. The learned languages are taught for 2 s. 6 d. per quarter; English for 1 s. 6 d. per ditto.

There is likewise a boarding-school for young ladies, where the various branches of needle work, music, and other parts of female education, are taught with great success. The mistress has a salary of 16 l. *per annum* from the town; and a young lady may have every accommodation for 15 l. a year. Dues per quarter, music, 10 s. 6 d.; plain work, 2 s. 6 d.; tambour, 5 s.; gum-flowers, a guinea. Particular attention is paid to the morals of youth in these different seminaries of learning; and from the abilities of the present teachers, and attention paid to the schools by the Magistrates, and the healthy situation of the town of Forres, there is not, perhaps, a more eligible place for the education of youth any where.

Rivers and Fish.—In this parish there are no fresh water lakes, and the river Findhorn and the burn of Forres are the only streams in the parish. The fish found in the river and bay of Findhorn, are salmon, trout, eels, flounders, and abundance of haddocks are taken in the Frith, which supplies the town of Forres and the neighbourhood. The quantity of salmon exported from Forres, upon an average of 10 years, from 1773 to 1783, was about 300 barrels annually, besides the home consumpt, which is not very considerable. Since the 1783, the quantity of salmon taken is considerably less; but last year, 1792, the fishing of the Findhorn has been

been much more productive than for several years preceding. The price of salmon is 4 d. and for trout 5 d. per lib.

Navigation. &c.—The river Findhorn is navigable for boats no farther than the tide flows. But did the increase of commerce and manufactures require it, there is no place where a canal might be more easily made. From Forres to the mouth of the Bay of Findhorn, which is the sea-port of Forres, the distance does not exceed 3 miles, and the tide flows in the basin more than half that distance; and the level of the ground, at the foot of the eminence on which the town of Forres stands, does not exceed the level of half tide by 14 feet; and that depth of a canal would carry boats and lighters at high water to the town; and such a canal would have the advantage of the burn of Forres to keep it clear. The basin already mentioned is a triangular piece of low ground, partly of that kind of stiff clay soil, called carle ground; and partly of fine compact sand, mixed with light particles of earth washed down by the floods. It is all dry at low water, except the channel of the river, and a little space at the inlet at high-water. Its circumference will be at least 7 miles, and contains more than 2 square miles of ground, all of which might be recovered from the sea, except what is necessary for a channel to the fresh water streams. A bar of sand, which stretches across the mouth of the river, prevents any surge from entering the basin; so that an embankment would have no weight of water to sustain, but the small fetch of the lake itself.

Limestone, &c.—In all this parish there is only one quarry of limestone, upon the estate of Mr Cuming of Altyre. It is not used in any great quantities. There is only one small patch of coarse moor-stone; and no detached stones are found

found of any considerable size, either above or below ground.

Inundations.—The lower part of this parish is very much subject to be flooded by the rivers. In September 1768, and August 1782, there were a remarkable inundation. The river Findhorn rose to such a height, that more than a mile in breadth of the finest lands was laid under water, and the crops either carried away or destroyed.

Manufactures.—The inhabitants in general are disposed to industry. No manufactures of public importance are carried on in or about Forres, except what supplies the town and its vicinity. The spinning of linen yarn has for 20 years back brought a considerable supply of money to this country. The spinning of yarn, and manufacturing such of it as may be necessary for domestic purposes, has employed a considerable number of women, whose earnings have been of great advantage to themselves, and beneficial to the public. The merchants are in the use of buying the yarn, and sending it to Glasgow, where there is generally a ready sale, unless the market is overstocked with Irish yarn, which, only on account of its cheapness, at certain times is preferred. But since the year 1784, the yarn trade has been gradually declining, owing to the increase of machines for spinning cotton in the south country, and the great quantities of yarn from Ireland imported into Glasgow, by which the price of yarn in this country has been greatly reduced. Many of those formerly employed in spinning yarn for sale have of late taken to the spinning of Dutch flax for the manufacturing companies at Aberdeen and Inverness.

A merchant of this town, in the year 1784, sent to Glasgow 23,290 spindles of yarn, which was collected near this place,

place. The other dealers in that article sent at least 47,000 spindles, which, at the rate of 2 s. per spindle for spinners, produced 7029 l. Sterling. The Trustees for Manufactures and Improvements have given some encouragement for the erecting of lint-mills in this neighbourhood, and these promise to be of great utility; and while they provide a proper and expeditious mode of manufacturing the flax, they will at the same time encourage the raising of that article in the country. Too much attention cannot be paid to this useful branch of trade, which employs those, and makes them useful to society, who would otherwise be a burden to the state.

Rent.—In the neighbourhood of the town, land let so high as 50 s. and some of the fields close to the town at 3 l. an acre. These are farmed by horse-hirers, who lay them down in grass; and, by the high wages they get for letting out their horses, are enabled to pay this enormous price for the land.

Plantations.—To the south of this town, upon a rising ground, commanding a view of Forres and Findhorn, and the Moray Frith, stands the house of Burdtyards, reckoned one of the best situations which any country can afford. Upon this estate are very extensive plantations of firs, in a very flourishing condition, planted by the present proprietors and others, and which now yield a profit of 100 l. a year. There are likewise considerable plantations of firs upon the estate of Cuthall, belonging to Alexander Penrose Cuming of Altyre, situated to the south-west of the town, about 3 miles upon the road leading from Forres to Yverrtown.

NUMBER XXX.

PARISH OF KENMORE.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.—SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.—PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD).

By the Rev. Mr COLIN MACVEAN, Minister.

Name, Situation, Extent, &c.

THE name is evidently derived from the Gaelic *Cean mor*, (pronounced Kenmore) in that language signifying *great head*; and is probably so called from a beautiful head-land projecting into the east end of Loch Tay, and on which the village and church of Kenmore are built. This parish is situated in that division of Perthshire called Breadalbane, in the presbytery of Dunkeld, and synod of Perth and Stirling. On the east it is bounded, about two miles below the village of Kenmore, with the parishes of Dull and Weem; on the west, by a part of the parishes of Killin and Weem; on the south and north, by those hills which rise to a considerable height from the sides of the loch, and bordering on the south with the parishes of Comrie and Monivaird, &c. and on the north with the parishes of Fortingale and Weem. This parish is about 7 miles in breadth, and extends to the west, from the village of Kenmore, on both sides of Loch Tay, about 8 miles, without any other parish intervening, except a small tract, for a very short space, with the parish of Arduernaig, in the parishes of

of Weem and Killin ; after which it continues on both sides to the west end of the loch, on the north side ; and nearly as far on the south. In a north-west direction from Killin, which is situated at the west end of Loch Tay, there is a beautiful and sequestered vale, called Glenlochay, a considerable part of which is in the parish of Kenmore, although some places of it are no less than 28 miles from the parish church. Such of the inhabitants of this glen, and other parts of the parish, as are adjacent to Killin, attend divine service there. They have seats in the church of Killin ; and when any repairs are wanted, either for church or manse, they perform carriages, &c. as were they parishioners. Their elders have a seat in the kirk-session, and their poor are chiefly supplied from the funds at Killin. It does not, however, appear, that their lands were formerly annexed, *quoad sacra*, to that parish. To Kenmore, also, belongs a small part of Glenquach, which lies to the south of the parish, and is separated from it by a hill 5 miles over. The inhabitants of this glen depend for church privileges on the mission of Amulree.

Lakes and Rivers.—The only lake worth mentioning is *Loch Tay*, which is 15 miles in length, and, in general, a mile in breadth, but two miles where broadest. It is said to be in many places 100 fathoms deep. This lake, which seldom or never freezes, abounds with salmon, pike, perch, eels, charr, and other trouts. The salmon are of an excellent quality, and are found clean at all seasons. Lord Breadalbane has the privilege of fishing them in the loch the whole year *. The principal river is the Tay, which issues

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from

* The water of Loch Tay suffers, at times, violent and uncommon agitations, occasioned, it is believed, by a subterraneous

from the loch on the north side of the village of Kenmore, and, after a course of 60 or 70 miles, discharges itself into the sea, below Dundee. It is navigable as far up as Perth.

Roads

neous impulse. The following copy of a letter, written by Mr Fleming, contains a particular description of a phenomenon of this kind, which happened in the year 1784.

Manse of Kenmore, Nov. 4. 1784.

"I did not return from the excursion on which I was when I had the pleasure to see you at Dundee, till last Tuesday night. On my arrival I found your letter respecting the phenomenon that lately happened in this neighbourhood. Although ill qualified to give you satisfaction upon this subject, I shall, however, comply with your desire, and give you the most accurate account of that phenomenon which I have been able to obtain.

"On Sunday the 12th September, about 9 o'clock in the morning, an unusual agitation was observed in Loch Tay, near the village of Kenmore. That village stands at the east end of the lake, having the river, which there issues from the lake, on the north side, and a bay about 460 yards in length, and 200 yards in breadth, on the south. The greater part of this bay is very shallow, being generally no more than 2 or 3 feet deep; but before it joins the body of the lake, it becomes suddenly very deep. At the extremity of this bay, the water was observed to retire about 5 yards within its ordinary boundary, and in 4 or 5 minutes to flow out again. In this manner it ebbed and flowed successively 3 or 4 times during the space of a quarter of an hour, when all at once the water rushed from the east and west in opposite currents, towards a lake across the bay, and about the edge of the deep, rose in the form of a great wave, to the height of 5 feet above the ordinary level, leaving the bottom of the bay dry, to the distance of between 90 and 100 yards from its natural boundary. When the opposite currents met, they made a clashing noise, and foamed; and the stronger impulse being from the east, the wave, after rising to its greatest height, rolled westward, but slowly diminishing as it went, for the space of 5 minutes, when it wholly disappeared. As the wave subsided, the water flowed back with some force, and exceeded its original boundary 4 or 5 yards; then it ebbed again about 10 yards, and again returned, and continued to ebb

Roads and Bridges.—On both sides of Loch Tay are good roads from Kenmore to Killin. The one on the north side was

ebb and flow in this manner for the space of two hours, the ebbs succeeding each other at the distance of about 7 minutes, and gradually lessening, till the water settled into its ordinary level.

“ At the same time that the undulation was observed in the bay on the south side of the village, the river on the north was seen to run back; the weeds at the bottom, which before pointed with the stream, received a contrary direction; and its channel was left dry about 12 feet from either edge. Under the bridge, (which is 60 or 70 yards from the lake), the current failed, and the bed of the river appeared where there had been 18 inches of water.

“ During the whole time that this phenomenon was observed, the weather was calm. It could barely be perceived, that the direction of the clouds was from N. E. The barometer (as far as I can recollect) stood the whole of that and the preceding day, about 29½ inches.

“ On the next, and the 4 succeeding days, an ebbing and flowing was observed, nearly about the same time, and for the same length of time, but not at all in the same degree as on the first day. A similar agitation was remarked at intervals, some days in the morning, other days in the afternoon, till the 15th of October, since which time no such thing has been observed.

“ I have not heard (although I have made particular inquiry) that any motion of the earth was felt in this neighbourhood, or that the agitation of the water was observed any where but about the village of Kenmore.

“ I hope the above account will furnish an answer to most of the questions contained in your letter. If there be any other circumstance, about which you wish to have farther information, it will give me pleasure to be able to communicate it.

“ I am, &c.

(Signed) “ THO. FLEMING.

“ N. B. The village of Kenmore is situated nearly in the parallel of 56 deg. 38 sec. and about 1 degree west of the meridian of Edinburgh. Loch Tay extends from thence somewhat more than 15 miles W. S. W. Its medium breadth is not much less than a mile, and its depth must be very considerable,

was made a considerable time ago ; that on the south side was made by the present Earl of Breadalbane, soon after he succeeded to the estate, and solely at his own expence. These roads have hitherto been kept in repair by the statute labour ; but a proposal is now made to convert it into money. A more pleasant ride than that between Kenmore and Killin, on either side of the loch, is very seldom to be met with. Each of these villages is furnished with a good inn. A handsome bridge, of five arches, is built over the Tay at Kenmore ; and a great number of small ones are thrown over the torrents which descend from the mountains into the loch, on both sides. Of these mountains, Ben-Lawers, on the west side, is by far the highest, being 4015 feet above the level of the sea, and is said to be the second highest mountain in Scotland. While I write this, being the 16th of May 1795, it is covered with new laid snow, a considerable way down its sides. It abounds with many rare plants, and is frequented by a great variety of quadrupeds and fowls*.

State

able, if one may judge from the height of the adjacent mountains."

On the 13th July 1794, Loch Tay experienced agitations similar to what are described above, although not so violent, nor of so long continuance.

* Many rare alpine plants may be classed amongst the natural productions of this mountain, as the *Astragalus uralensis* ; *Arenaria saxatilis* ; *Juncus jaquini* ; *Acrolicum iloense* ; *Cerastium alpinum* ; (Linn.) *Erigeron alpinum* ; *Gentiana nivalis* ; *Carex rigida* ; *Lichen croceus* ; *L. fusco luteus* ; *Draba stellata* ; *Veronica saxatilis* ; *Phleum alpinum* ; *Cherleria sedoides*, &c. Some of these plants have not, it is believed, been discovered on Ben-Lomond, or, perhaps, any other mountain in the island ; and are omitted by Dr Lightfoot, and other writers on British plants.

State of the Church and School.—The value of the living, exclusive of the glebe and a small farm annexed to it, which the incumbent enjoys by the beneficence of the Breadalbane family, for the rent of 5 s. yearly, is about 75 l. The church and manse were rebuilt in the handsomest manner about 35 years ago, and are still in good repair. The church is exceedingly neat and plain; it is built in form of a cross, and is ornamented with a fine tower steeple. The manse is large, handsome, and commodious. It is situated on a rising ground on the south side of the loch, and commands a charming prospect. Beneath is the village, church, bridge, loch, and the discharge of the river out of it. Opposite is Drummond hill; rising almost perpendicular, and reaching to the height of about 500 feet above the level of the loch. This beautiful hill begins two miles below Kenmore, and extends westward 5 miles. It is covered, from one end to the other, with oaks, pines, larches, &c. and forms a most delightful and picturesque object. The prospect to the east of the manse comprehends a considerable part of Lord Breadalbane's pleasure ground, and plantings about Taymouth; and is terminated by distant hills. To the west is a view of the loch for about 5 miles, where it makes a bend to the south. Its sides exhibit a pleasing variety of woods and corn fields. The view beyond this is terminated by the lofty hill of Lawers, already mentioned.

Having made mention of Taymouth, it may perhaps be expected that I should give a particular account of that place. This, however, is a task to which I confess myself unequal.

Accurate

plants. A non-descript grass, probably of the *Poa* genus, is found growing near the foot of the mountain. It is a beautiful grass, and grows to the height of about 4 feet. This, with some of the above mentioned plants, was lately discovered by Mr John Mackay, an expert botanist, now in Edinburgh.

Accurate and beautiful descriptions of this place have been given to the public, by Mr Pennant and others, to which descriptions the reader is referred.

Besides the parish church, there is a chapel at Lawers, on the north side of Loch Tay, where the ministers of Kenmore and Weem preach occasionally. Here the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge established, in the year 1790, a mission, on a fund mortified by the late Lady Glenorchy, of which they have the management. Out of this fund one half of the missionary's salary is paid; the hearers pay the other. Lord Breadalbane gives a manse and glebe. In this mission the present minister of Kenmore officiated, for about three years previous to his settlement there, which was on the 13th March 1794. In this parish are no sectaries of any denomination whatever.

Schools.—The parochial school, which is kept in the village of Kenmore, is generally frequented by about 100 scholars, except in summer and autumn, when many of the youth, being necessarily engaged in husbandry business, cannot attend their education. The Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge in Scotland maintains four schools within the bounds of the parish. Private schools are also occasionally kept in different parts of the parish, and their teachers supported solely by the scholars parents. At present there are no fewer than four of these private schools, but the number of scholars is not great.

State of the Poor.—The number of poor upon the parish roll amounts to 40, exclusive of the poor of those parts of the parish that are connected with Killin and Amulree. The funds for their maintenance in this, as well as in all the neighbouring parishes, arise chiefly from weekly collections
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in the church, which, in this parish, *communibus annis*, amount to 32 l. Besides this, they have 5 l. yearly, being the interest of 100 l. which was mortified, about 60 years ago, for their behoof, by a near relation of the noble family of Breadalbane. They have also another small sum at interest, which the kirk-session have been enabled, in times of plenty, to save out of the funds. The noble proprietors already mentioned, have, besides, been long in the practice of distributing yearly, in the district of Breadalbane, from between 90 to 100 bolls of meal, to widows and orphans, and to aged and infirm persons in indigent circumstances, though not on the poor-roll. This meal has lately been converted into money, at 16 s. the boll.

Population.—This parish seems to have undergone no considerable change, with respect to population, for some time past. The districts along the sides of Loch Tay have, from time immemorial, been remarkably populous. In these places, the tenants, in general, have but very small possessions, several of them being crowded together in the same farm. And although it is certain that the noble proprietor might increase his rent-roll considerably, by enlarging the possessions and lessening the number of tenants, yet, knowing their attachment to their country, he allows them to remain in the abodes of their forefathers. The only villages in the parish are Kenmore and Stronfernan, the latter of which was built a few years ago, and consists of about 24 families.

It appears, by the return made to Dr Webster in the year 1755, that the population of the parish was then 3067. By a survey taken in 1794-5, the population amounts to 3463. Of these 1520 are males, and 1943 are females. The average number of marriages yearly is 24, and of births 60.

The

The number of burials is uncertain, as there are no less than 6 burying places in the parish; and no register of burials kept.

In the parish are 63 weavers, 38 taylors, 36 wrights, 26 shoemakers, 20 flaxdressers, 10 smiths, 9 masons, 8 coopers, 4 hosiery, and 1 dyer. In the above list apprentices and journeymen are included.

Agriculture and Husbandry.—The richest and best cultivated land in this country extends nearly a mile in width on both sides of Loch Tay. The soil, which is of a loamy texture, has, in the course of time, been carried down by the rains from the higher grounds; and is enriched with the spoils of decayed animals and vegetables. The hilly land chiefly consists of a light mossy kind of soil, which naturally is not unfriendly to vegetation. Heath, bent, and coarse grasses, are the general product of the hills and muirs; but the vallies and water carried soils in the glens, &c. produce good crops of excellent grasses. The grains chiefly cultivated are oats, bear or big (four-rowed barley), beans, pease, potatoes, and lint. The average return of oats is 3 or 4, and of barley 4 or 5. The return of lint is commonly a stone of flax from the *tipple*. Potatoes in general make a good return. The old system of rotation, namely, the infield land with oats and bear alternately, and the outfield with oats and ley, is in general continued. Each farm is commonly subdivided among several tenants, a practice which does not merit the highest approbation*. These tenants have each a separate lease or verbal bargain, the duration of which is mostly from year to year, at the will of the proprietor. Under

* See Marshall's Survey of the Central Highlands, p. 32.

der such a system; agriculture cannot be expected to make great progress.

Horses, Cows, and Sheep.—The horses, with which this and the neighbouring parishes are stocked, are of the Highland breed, and of about 12 or 13 hands high. They are very hardy, and easily supported. Their number, in this parish, is 926. The cattle are also of the Highland kind; are kept principally for breeding, and amount to 3028.—The number of sheep in the parish amounts to about 11,480. They are of the black-faced breed, which, for about half a century past, have gradually succeeded the antient Highland, or native kind, a few of which yet remain in some places in the neighbourhood. The above numbers of the live stock are exclusive of followers. Some trials have lately been made to introduce the Cheviot breed of sheep. Lord Breadalbane, a few years ago, complimented some of his principal tenants with a few of the Cheviot sheep, by way of trial. But none of the sheep graziers have discovered any inclination to stock their farms with them, in preference to the black-faced kind.

Rental.—The real rent of the parish may be about 2800 l. Sterling. The value of land has risen considerably these last 12 years, in consequence of the rise in the price of sheep and black cattle. The produce of the parish is supposed to be rather more than what is sufficient for the consumpt of the inhabitants.

Antiquities.—On a small island, at the west end of Loch Tay, are the ruins of a priory dependent on the religious establishment of Scone. It was founded in the year 1122, by Alexander I. of Scotland, in which were deposited the

remains of his Queen Sybill. That it was founded by Alexander appears by a grant made by that monarch, of the isle in Loch Tay, directed *Episcopis, &c. Ut Ecclesia Dei ibi pro me, et pro anima Sybillae Reginae ibi defunctae, fabricatur, &c.*

Several Druidical temples have, in this parish, survived the waste of time; and the more destructive delapidations of the incurious and avaricious. One, perhaps the largest and most entire of any in Scotland, yet remains about two miles down from Kenmore, although not in that parish. It is about 60 yards in circumference, and consists of three concentric circles. The stones in the outermost are not so large as those in the inner circles, and are not, like them, set on end. In this parish are several Tiobaits, or wells, the waters of which were, of old, supposed to be possessed of healing qualities; some were good for the toothach; some for sore eyes, &c. Now, however, they are very seldom visited *.

* Several articles have been purposely omitted in this account, having been already mentioned in the accounts of Killin, Fortingale, &c.

The following Copy of a Letter, respecting the Statistical Account of the neighbouring Parish of Fortingale is, by the Rev. Mr Macara, and some other Gentlemen, requested to be annexed to the Statistical History of the Parish of Kenmore.

“Imagining that the clergymen in the Highlands of Scotland would have been more particular in describing the manners and circumstances of the inhabitants of their parishes, during the feudal system, which formerly prevailed, I in that persuasion represented the state of my parish exactly as I found it, which I now regret, since, by my having done so, it may be inferred, that the inhabitants of the parish of Fortingale were in a peculiarly barbarous and miserable situation, which was by no means the case, as from similar causes the manners and circumstances

circumstances of all the inhabitants in the remote parts of the Highlands were, during the period alluded to, much the same.

"Being conscious of having adhered to truth in the statistical account of my parish, I will make no apology for it; and my only intention in ordering the publication of this is to remove any unfavourable impression the readers of the Statistical Account of Scotland may have received, from my having been more particular in the account I have given, than my brethren in other remote parts of the Highlands of Scotland have thought necessary.

(Signed) "DUNCAN MACARA."

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NUMBER XXXI. •

PARISH OF KINLOCH.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.—SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.—PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD).

By the Rev. Mr JOHN BRODIE, Minister.

Name, Extent, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

KINLOCH takes its name from its relative situation to the loch hard by it; the word, in the Gaelic language, signifying the head of the loch. The parish is about 9 miles in length, from the north-west corner to the south-east corner; and one mile and a half is its greatest breadth from east to west. The parish church is distant from Perth, on the south, about 15 miles; from Dunkeld, on the west, about 9 miles; from Coupar-Angus, on the south-east, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles; and from Blairgowrie, on the east, about a mile and a half. From the lakes and flat lying grounds to the southward of the church, the ground rises in elevation for several miles to the northward. The southern exposure, the shelter from the high grounds to the northward, the beautiful lakes in the valley below, the plantations of wood on the estate of Marlee, and the other plantations and gentlemen's seats in the neighbourhood, all conspire to render the lower part of this parish a beautiful part of this country. The soil, though in general good, is of various qualities and
denomina-

denominations, from rich to poor, mortary, loamy, and sandy soils.

Lakes, Brooks, &c.—Though there is a great number of small brooks in this parish, there are only two large ones, viz. Lornty-burn, and Lunen-burn. The former cuts the parish across from west to east. On it there is one corn-mill. The latter is the boundary of the parish on the south-east. On it there is another corn-mill in the parish. There are three lakes or lochs in this parish, viz. the Loch of Drumelie, the Rae Loch, and the Fenzies Loch, all the property of Mr Farquharson of Invercauld. Drumelie Loch is situated a little to the westward of the house of Marlee; the Rae Loch about a quarter of a mile to the eastward of it; and the Fenzies Loch about a mile to the south-east of the house. These lochs abound in pike, perch, and eel. In Drumelie loch are also to be had trout of a superior size and quality. In this loch, and in Lunen-brook which issues from it, and which communicates with a number of fine lakes to the westward, are to be found trout in good order, that is fat, earlier in the season, than in any other brook, river, or lake in this country. This brook has a rich muddy bottom, in which there is plenty of slick-worm, (a species of food which the trout peculiarly delight in), and as there is very little current in the brook, that food is not so apt to be swept away by the swelling flood, as it is in brooks and rivers where there is a strong current.

Marl, &c.—In two of these lakes, there is a valuable treasure of rich shell marl. In the moss or marsh which is connected with the Rae Loch, there is a marl-pit, the first that was opened in this country. It was partially drained, and opened for public sale, about the year 1734. The drain
has

has been deepened by the present proprietor at different periods of time, and at very great expence. The Fenzies Loch has also been partially drained, and a great quantity of marl has been taken out of it by means of boats and nets. This loch has every where a marly bottom, and the marl is in many places of a very great depth. The sales of marl at these pits have been very extensive; and the advantages derived, not only to the proprietor of the marl, but also to all the proprietors of land in this neighbourhood, and to their tenants, have been very great. And these advantages would have been much greater had the proper method of cropping lands, when they were first marled, been rightly understood. Let it be observed, that there seems to be a natural and necessary connection betwixt spring water and shell marl: For, with respect to both the marl-pits above named, and all other marl-pits which the writer of this statistical account has seen, a much greater quantity of water issues from the respective pits than the quantity that runs into them; at least than the quantity that runs superficially into them; and because, notwithstanding of repeated trials, this writer has never yet seen marl found in any pit, marsh, or lake, into which as much water is observed to run, as that which runs out of it. With respect to the situation of marl-pits, let it also be observed, with respect to these in this parish, with respect to all the marl-pits in this country, and perhaps in every other country, that the circumjacent ground rises from the pit on all sides, excepting that one by which the water issues from the pit. By attending to these two observations, a great deal of trouble may be saved in the course of searching for marl; and marl may be easily found in countries where it is not yet known.

Marl, as a manure, operates chiefly upon the earth by separating its parts, rendering it more penetrable to the roots
of

of plants, and thereby giving them access to draw nourishment from many particles of earth which did not contribute to their nourishment before such separation. Therefore, the more thoroughly that marl is intermixed or incorporated with the soil to which it is applied, the more extensive and powerful must be its effects.

Marl can, with more ease or difficulty, be pulverised and incorporated with the soil, in proportion as the marl is rich or poor. The richer the marl is, the less it has of a cohesive quality, and therefore will be the more easily incorporated, and the poorer the marl is, the more it has of a cohesive quality, and therefore will be with the greater difficulty pulverised and incorporated with the soil to which it is applied.

Marl, though specifically lighter than the soil on the surface of which it is laid, does, by separating the parts of the circumjacent earth, soon sink below the surface. And if it be allowed to sink in lumps, that is, before it be pulverised, a great proportion of that marl will never afterwards be got thoroughly to incorporate with the soil. The most advantageous method, therefore, of applying this valuable manure, in order to obtain the full benefit of the quantity applied, is to lay it on the ground while under a grass crop, and leave it exposed on the surface over the winter season. The thickly interwoven roots of the grass will prevent any considerable body of it from sinking below the surface, till it be reduced by the winter frosts and rains, and, in small particles, washed into the earth.

If marl must be laid on ground under fallow, it should be previously put into a compost hill with earth, and, by mixing and turning, thoroughly pulverised.

Marl put into compost with hot dung, will, by the juices of the dung, be rendered more clammy and cohesive than it was before, and more unfit for incorporating with the earth.

If

If you sow flax seed for the second or third crop on ~~marl~~-ed ground, that is, while the influence of the ground is most powerful, though the crop will have a promising appearance till the beginning, or towards the middle of July, when the plant is about 7 or 8 inches long, about this time, (under the strong influence of the sun), the swelling and agitation of the earth, occasioned by the powerful operation of the marl, break the tender fibres of this plant, while in its quickest growth, and cause it to decay.

Agriculture, &c.—This parish produces wheat, barley, oats, pease, flax, potatoes, and turnip. Clover and rye-grass seeds are sown extensively. Potatoes are planted in much greater quantities, than they were a few years ago. Besides their great utility for the table, they are found to be excellent food for horses and black cattle, and are used as such. A light, dry, or sandy soil, is best for potatoes. The potatoe called the London Lady is the best of the early species of potatoes yet known in this parish. The red-nosed-white-kidney potatoe, and the long-white-kidney potatoe, which are equally great or thick at both ends, are the best eating of the late species of potatoes; and the last mentioned of these is equally prolific with the common-late-round-white potatoe. The dark red Lancashire potatoe, if planted in a very dry sandy soil, is more prolific than any other of the species above mentioned; it is also more solid, a measure-full of this species, outweighing considerably the same measure-full of any of the others. The above mentioned different species are the best of all the variety of potatoes cultivated in this country. It has been found here by repeated experiments, that the best method of preventing potatoes from degenerating, and of rendering them more prolific, is to raise potatoes now and then from the seed that grows upon the plant.

plant. The process is easy, viz. take 3 large ripe apples from a stem of your favourite potatoe. Preserve them carefully from the winter frosts. About the beginning of April prepare a bit of good rich garden ground. With a wooden pole form small drills in it about an inch deep. Pick the seeds out of the apples, and sow them as regularly as possible in these drills, and cover the seed with about half an inch depth of earth. In the mean time prepare another piece of good rich ground; and when the potatoe seedling plants have grown about an inch high above the ground, carefully raise them, with as much earth about the plants, respectively, as possible, and transplant them into the other piece of prepared ground, at the distance of 10 inches betwixt the plants in the row; and the distance of 14 inches betwixt the rows. Hoe them when needful, and take them up when ripe. If they have been thus cared for, you will have many of them as large as small hen eggs the first season. And, if you plant these seedling potatoes in good ground next spring, give them plenty of room, and take good care of them, you will, against next autumn, find their produce arrived at the full size of potatoes planted in the ordinary way. And from the seed of these three apples, you will have, the second year, upwards of 4 bolls of potatoes. And these potatoes, thus raised from the apple-seed, will continue, for several years, more prolific than potatoes which have not, for many years, been raised from the apple-seed.

If you plant the early potatoe called the London-Lady, or the early potatoe called the Glory of England, in rich, dry, warm lying ground, in the beginning of April, your crop will be ready for the market by the 20th of July. And if you then dress the same ground, and plant it with the same species of potatoes, which have been kept over the winter, and, by lying in a dry well-aired place, and by being fre-

quently turned, have been prevented from springing too much during the preceding part of the summer, you will have a second crop of potatoes on the same ground, ripe against the middle of October; and the second crop will be much richer than the first, though, in point of quality, the potatoes will not be so dry and mealy. The above directions are founded on strict experiment and observation.

Improvements in agriculture began a considerable number of years ago to make their appearance in this parish and neighbourhood. For some time they advanced but slowly, being under the direction of only a few individuals; but a few years ago they became more general, and are now advancing with rapid progress. Besides the desire and hope of gain, a laudable spirit of emulation fully appears now actuating the public mind, and opens the fair prospect of multifarious improvements.

Roads, &c.—There are two public roads in the parish; the one passing through the parish from south to north, leading from the Boat of Kincleven, to the Bridge of Gally, where it joins the military road which leads from Blairgowrie to Fort-George. The other crossing the foresaid road at the church, and passing through the parish from east to west, leading from Blairgowrie towards Dunkeld. The former of these roads was made many years ago, principally by the statute labour, under the direction, and by the assistance, of Mr Farquharson of Invercauld. The latter is now making under the direction of Mr Campbell of Achalader. The statute labour is here now converted into money, and the heritors seem determined that that money shall be properly applied. They fix upon a proper plan, and when the public fund falls short of defraying the expence of executing that plan, they make up the deficiency out of their own private pockets.

pockets. The particular attention now paid to the roads by the heritors of this parish, and indeed by the other gentlemen in the neighbourhood, does them much honour, as it must redound to the unspeakable advantage of the public.

Plantations, &c.—There is a good deal of hard wood, such as ash, &c. in the parish, particularly on Mr Farquharson's estate of Marlee, and Mr Campbell's estates of Glassclune and Balleid. There are also plantations of several species of firs on the estate of Marlee, and three considerable plantations on the estate of Glassclune. Of all the fir tribe, the larix takes the lead, in every soil and situation. Being a quick grower, and of good quality, it has become a favourite object of the landed gentlemen, who incline to improve their property by the plantation of wood. There are larix trees now growing at Marlee, which were planted by the present proprietor about 36 years ago, some of which measure 5 feet 5 inches in circumference, and above 70 feet in length. This gentleman has, for a great number of years back, raised here from the seed, annually, a great number of thousands of plants of this species of fir, and annually transmitted many thousands of them to the north country, to clothe and ornament a few of his lofty mountains of Braemar, to stand a beautiful monument of persevering industry, and to serve future generations with that valuable wood!

Mr Campbell of Achalader, who is substantially improving the farm of Balleid, which he occupies, has introduced the larix as a substitute for the thorn hedge. The larches are planted in double rows, at the distance of about 18 inches betwixt the plants in the row, and the distance of 14 inches betwixt the rows, the plants in the one row standing opposite to the vacancies in the other. As the larix thrives in every soil; as thorns do not thrive in very dry poor soils, it must

must be a great improvement to plant larches instead of thorns, for fences, in all these kinds of soils which cannot afford a sufficient quantity of moisture to make thorns prosper. And even in rich soils, and those which afford plenty of moisture for thorns, it will be found, that larches will sooner become a fence than thorns, and with much less trouble and expence.

Hills, Fuel, Game, &c — There are no hills in this parish, excepting the hill of Cochrage, belonging to Mr Campbell of Achalader; and it merits rather the names of a muir and mofs, than that of a hill. It is of a considerable extent, and contains a great quantity of peat-mofs. On this mofs, the inhabitants of this country, to the distance of a considerable number of miles to the south-east of the mofs, used principally to depend for their fuel, peat and turf. But now that the attention of the farmers is much taken up in the summer season, with improvements in agriculture, the inhabitants of this parish and neighbourhood, (excepting those residing near the mofs) principally depend for fuel upon coals, driven from the shores of Perth and Dundee.

In this hill of Cochrage, there are a good many grouse or muir-fowl, and a few heath-fowl or black-cock. There were no heath-fowl to be seen in this parish or neighbourhood, till within these few years. They came from the woods and muirs in the neighbourhood of Dunkeld, and are now to be seen in almost every muir in this neighbourhood, where there is plenty of heath for food, and wood for shelter. The numerous rising plantations are also beginning to invite the roe-deer, which, till within these few years, had not, for some ages past, made their abode in these lower parts of this country.

In the lower parts of this parish, hares and partridges abound. And about the latter end of autumn, a vast number and variety of water-fowl, particularly the wild duck, and the different species of teals, repair to the lakes before mentioned, and there continue to gather occasionally the gleanings of the neighbouring corn fields, till these fields are covered with snow, or bound up with frost. Then they depend for subsistence on the open lakes, marshes, and springs. And when these are all shut up except a few powerful springs, they betake themselves to the open rivers, and there continue till the increasing frosts drive them, emaciated, back to the sea shores. A few of them remain here over winter, and hatch in the spring season. The wood-cock, also, who visits us about the middle or end of October, feeds in our woods till the winter frosts set in, when he cannot, with his feet or bill, turn over the fallen leaves: Then he takes to the woods and thickets where springs most abound; and when the frosts have long continued very intense, instigated by necessity, he wings his way to more southern climes, where the loose lying leaves of the woods, and the open marshes and springs, admit his long tender bill, and invite him to pick up, and suck from their open stores, the scanty pittance of food which he demands. He revisits us about the middle of February, on his way to a more northern climate, where he fixes his place for propagating his species.—But why repair to these northern climates to propagate thy species? Do the Norwegian woods afford thy tender young ones a more plentiful supply of food, and every other thing suited to their nature, than could be found in more southern climates? In these northern climates, is the year far advanced before the snows are dissolved? Does the dissolution of the snows and frosts afford plenty of springs, and moisture in the woods? If thou delightest in the small
feeds

seeds of vegetables, dost thou find that, against the season of incubation, they are not, by vegetation, rendered unfit for thy use? Against the time when thou hast got thy brood under thy wings, has the animating sun produced, by his influence, plenty of animalculi and insects amongst the fallen leaves of the woods, and encourage many small reptiles to come up to the surface of the earth, and mix among the leaves? Dost thou find them in plenty for thyself and for thy brood? and plenty of food also among the springs? Yes thou dost; and with that plenty thou continuest, till thy young ones are grown up to full size and strength, and are fully fledged. And when the killing frosts set in, and the falling snows threaten to cover up thy favourite haunts, thou leavest thy native woods, and betakest thyself to those in more southern climates.

Antiquities, &c.—There is one Druidical temple in the parish, on the road leading from Blairgowrie to Dunkeld. There is an old castle at Glaffclune, situated on the promontory of the steep bank of a deep den. It appears from its situation to have been a very strong hold, before the use of fire arms was introduced into this country. Mr Campbell of Achalader is the present proprietor; Mr Blair was his predecessor; and Mr Heron, Mr Blair's. As to when it was built, and by whom, even tradition itself is silent.

A pair of very large deer's horns were found a few years ago, in a bed of marl, in Mr Farquharson's marl-pit at Marlee. From their superior size, and palmed form, they appear to be the horns of the elk-deer, antiently the stately inhabitant of the Caledonian forests. It is remarkable that deer's horns have been found in different marl-pits in this country, in an entire state; but never found in the moss above the marl, nor in the stratum of sand or clay, betwixt the
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the uppermost and the lowest beds of marl; nor in the stratum of clay or sand below the undermost bed of marl; but in the bed of marl itself; which circumstance renders it probable, that shell-marl is well adapted for preserving certain substances from decay.

There is in a muir in this parish, a vast number of tumuli, called the Haer Cairns. In this muir, it is thought, that the famous battle between Agricola the Roman general, and Galgacus the general of the Caledonians, was fought.

A particular detail on this subject would stretch this statistical account to too great a length. The writer, therefore, begs leave to refer the reader to what is said on the subject in the statistical accounts of the neighbouring parishes of Clunie and Bendochy; and in the meantime ventures to assert, that the antiquarian will, upon due examination, find a strong probability that this was the scene of the action.

Population, Bessial, &c.—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls, in 1755, was 331. The number of souls now is 372. Of that number 177 are males, and 195 females. There are 311 above 8 years of age, and 61 below that age. There are 6 females single persons, who are householders; 2 widows, who have 2 children each; and 2 males single persons, each above 80 years of age.—Number of marriages within the last 7 years, 30. Average number annually, 4.—Number of baptisms within the last 7 years, 74. Average number annually, 10.—There are in the parish 141 horses, 522 black cattle, and 250 sheep.

Heritors, Valued Rents, &c.—There are 6 heritors in this parish, viz. Colonel John Campbell of Achalader, James Farquharson of Invercauld, Lieut. Thomas Hog of Thorngreen, James Scott of Nether Balcairn, William Mitchell portioner

of

of Wester Kinloch, and Colonel William Lindsay of Ardblair. Two of them reside in the parish during part of the year; two are constant residents; and two non-resident. The valued rent of the parish is 1705 l. 10 s. Scots money.

Church, Manse, Stipend, School, &c.—The heritors built a good manse and offices about 22 years ago; built a handsome and commodious church about two years ago; and a neat school and school-house last year. The glebe is much about the legal extent. The stipend (valuing 59 bolls victual at 15 s. per boll), is about 80 l. Sterling.—The schoolmaster's salary is 10 l. Sterling.

Manufactures, &c.—The principal manufacture in this parish is that of flax, which, in raising, spinning, bleaching, and weaving it, occupies the labour of a considerable number of the inhabitants. There are in the parish 6 weavers, 2 masons, 4 joiners, 2 blacksmiths, 2 shoemakers, 2 taylors, 1 flaxdresser, 1 brewer, 1 merchant, 26 farmers, and 2 millers.

The hire of day-labourers, and the fees of servants, &c. are the same here as in the neighbouring parishes.

Sectaries.—There are in this parish one family of the Church of England, one family and 4 individuals of the Roman Catholic persuasion, and one family and 5 individuals Seceders.

Character of the People.—In delineating the character of the people of this parish, I can conscientiously say, more especially comparing them with the inhabitants of many other districts, that they have rational sentiments of religion; that they are regular attendants on the ordinances of divine institution;

stitution; that, on the whole, they are disinterested, benevolent, humane, and charitable; that they are slow to speak, modest in conversation, respectful to superiors, obedient to those who have the rule over them, quiet in their behaviour, and, from religious principle, thankful and loyal subjects of the British government. At the same time, if we keep in view the great standard of perfection, by which we ought to judge of the human character, I mean the laws of our holy religion, and the perfect pattern of perfect excellence, which the Divine Author of it hath left for our imitation, I must say, that, upon a close examination, there are to be seen, on the face of this fair character, some specks; and that there is good ground, and fair opportunity, for improving, purifying, ornamenting, and adorning it.

May a humble sense of such imperfections, ever keep our hearts open to the noblest motives for improvements!

Quanto quisque sibi plura negaverit, a dis plura feret.

NUMBER XXXII.

PARISH OF INSCH.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.—PRESBYTERY
OF GARIOCH).

By a FRIEND to STATISTICAL INQUIRIES.

Origin of the Name, Situation, and Boundaries.

INSCH, or, as it is commonly written, *Insch*, seems to derive its name from its local situation on a low flat, situated close by the side of a small rivulet. This parish lies in the county and synod of Aberdeen, and in that district of the county which is called the Garioch, and gives name to the presbytery in which Insch is situated. It is distant about 26 miles from Aberdeen; and is bounded on the south by the parishes of Oyne and Premnay; on the west, by Kinnethmont and Gartly; on the north, by Drumblate and Forgue; and on the east by Culfalmond.

Figure and Extent; Soil and Proportion of Arable Land.—

Its figure is that of an oblong square, 5 miles long by 3 in breadth. Its area 15 miles, or nearly 7500 Scots acres. The land, in the southern parts of the parish, is generally of a most excellent soil, and produces rich and early crops; but along the skirts of the hill of Fondland, and in the glens or narrow vallies, which run up from the low country through that hill, the soil is not so fertile, and the crops are late

late and precarious. About one third of the whole parish (or 2500 acres) is cultivated at present, and 5000 acres are not cultivated. But it deserves to be noticed, that of this uncultivated part, several hundred acres on the hill of Fondland, and in the glens or narrow vallies above mentioned, not only are arable, but were formerly under cultivation. These are now neglected, and produce nothing but heath. They were first deserted by the farmers in the end of last century, when that part of the country was almost depopulated by 7 years of famine: And now they lie neglected, along with many thousand acres, in like situation, in different parts of the north of Scotland.

Hills.—The largest of these is the hill of Fondland above mentioned, which extends into several parishes, and is elevated about 800 feet above the level of the sea. This extensive hill shelters the parish of Insch, and a considerable part of the district of Garioch, upon the north; and hence partly occasions its great natural fertility. In the most elevated part of Fondland, and in that part which is situated in the parish of Insch, are extensive quarries of fine blue slate, a considerable quantity of which is yearly dug up, and manufactured for sale. This hill seems once to have been a very considerable hunting forest. Its name, which is from the Gaelic, is expressive of this; for *faod*, in the Gaelic, signifies hunting. And, in the mosses of this hill, very large trees, particularly oaks, are frequently dug up. It now abounds in moss, heath, and moor game. About half a mile from the town of Insch, stands the curious and noted hill of Dun-o-deer, with the ruins of a very antient castle on the top of it. Dun-o-deer, or *Dundore* in Gaelic, is said to signify *the Hill in the Wood*; and very probably all the lower grounds, around that insulated hill, have once been covered with wood. It is remarkable steep on all sides, is of a conical shape, and covered with a very fine green sward. Hec-

tor Boethius calls it *Dundore, the golden mountain in Garioch*; and says, that the teeth of the sheep that pastured upon it were of the colour of gold. It still affords most excellent pasture for sheep, but has no such quality as is ascribed to it by that very credulous historian. This hill is about 3000 yards in circumference, and above 300 feet high, and seems to spring from the level plain of the Garioch. It has been, probably in some very early period, a volcano, though different opinions are formed concerning this curious hill.

Rivers and projected Canal.—The small rivulets in this parish are not worth notice on their own account; but they are very proper for supplying with water a projected canal from Inch to Aberdeen. This canal has been some time in contemplation, and at present it is thought that it will succeed, at least as far as Inverury. The subscription for the undertaking is already swelled to a great amount. But if the *proprietors of land* were to carry on the canal, and to contribute sums proportioned to their property; and if, instead of 2 d. per ton for each mile, only a halfpenny per ton (for defraying the expence of boats, and keeping the canal in repair) were exacted, a number of heavy articles, such as stones for London, and potatoes for Denmark and Norway, would be carried to Aberdeen, which could not be carried, if the canal dues or portorage be high; and the lands in this district would soon increase in rent, much more than all the interest of the money expended on the canal. Should this canal succeed, it is difficult to say, how much the rich district of *the Garioch*, for which nature has done so much, and art so little, may advance in value in 30 or 40 years. From this parish the slate from the hill of Fondland would be exchanged for lime from Aberdeen.

Agriculture,

Agriculture.—A better mode of cultivating the land is now adopted than what formerly prevailed. But a regular rotation of crops is not yet established, though considerable quantities of turnips and potatoes are reared annually. Oats and barley are still the principal crops in this parish. Should, however, the canal above mentioned take place, many hundreds of acres, besides those which were once cultivated, but are now deserted, would be brought into cultivation; and, instead of a poor stunted sort of heath, would produce luxuriant crops of corn and grass.

Manure.—The only manure used in this parish, except the dung raised on the farms, is lime brought from Aberdeen. There was a small quantity of marl on one farm, called Nether Boddum, but it was exhausted several years ago. And so ignorant were the country people of its proper value, that they used it as plaster to the walls of their houses. It was, however, of considerable service to the farm in which it was found. Perhaps this small quantity is a proof that more marl might be discovered in the district, if the proprietors would be at the expence of searching for it.

Population.—The population of this parish has decreased within these 40 years. In Dr Webster's account it is stated at 995; it is now only 900, or 95 less. The population of the country parishes in the north of Scotland decreased much in the end of the last century, as may be seen, by comparing the numbers who paid the poll-tax, (a number certainly short of the whole population), with the numbers given in Dr Webster's account. There was, however, in the first 60 years of this century, a rapid increase of the population, which was brought pretty near to its former state, when the scarcity of moss in country parishes, and the demand

mand for labour about towns on the sea coast, drew off a number of people to reside in the royal boroughs, or manufacturing towns. It is now chiefly in those parishes, in which manufacturing villages are found, that the population is increasing. In all probability, however, it will increase for some time. The introduction of potatoes has added much to the quantity of human food; and with an increase of provision, there will always be an increased population.

Village.—The town of Inch, where the church stands, is situated at the southern extremity of the parish. It is a burgh of barony, has a weekly market, and two or three yearly fairs; but they are much on the decline. The carrying the canal to this village would be attended with important advantages, as it would become the market place for all the upper parts of the Garioch. The feuers of this town are heritable proprietors of their houses and small gardens. They are either shopkeepers or mechanics; and they rent small farms from Colonel Hay of Rannes, who is superior of the town, and proprietor of the lands in the neighbourhood.

Manufactures.—The knitting of stockings for the Aberdeen manufacturers is the principal employment of the women of this district. It is at present at a stand; and, from various causes, is presumed to be on the decline.

Antiquities.—The old castle, built on the top of the conical hill of Dun-o-deer, is a very great curiosity. Tradition says it was built by King Gregory the Great, more than 900 years ago; yet a considerable part of the walls are still standing; and the materials of which the walls are built are of a singular kind, and have given rise to various conjectures.

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In a periodical paper called the Bee, lately published at Edinburgh, there was lately given a very particular, and pretty accurate description of the hill and caſtle of Dun-o-deer, with a copper-plate engraving. The author of that description ſuppoſes the materials of the caſtle to be part of a vitrified fort. But it appears at leaſt as probable, that this mount, as well as the Top-o-Noth, another of the ſame kind, a few miles diſtant from it, have been volcanos, and that this old caſtle has been built with ſome of the volcanic matter dug out of the hill. The gentlemen of the diſtrict of Garioch, ſome years ago, ſubſcribed a few guineas for white-waſhing the ruins of this caſtle, which were worth the expence of adorning and preſerving.

Proprietors.—There are 6 heritors, of whom Mr Gordon of Rothney is the only reſident proprietor. The rent of the pariſh is about 1200 l.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The manſe of Inſch was built in 1771; and the church is lately repaired. Mr George Daun was admitted miniſter of Inſch in 1790. The ſtipend is about 70 l.; but a proceſs of augmentation is depending. Sir William Forbes of Craigievar is patron of the pariſh. The kirk-ſeſſion, beſides their other funds, have the property of a ſmall piece of land, called the Baſs, which was bequeathed to them for the uſe of the poor, by an heritor of the town of Inſch, in the laſt century.

Character of the People.—The people are decent in their behaviour, and induſtrious in their occupations; and, like the inhabitants of all country pariſhes, more ſimple in their manners, and more pure in morals than the inhabitants of towns.

towns. The decay of the weekly markets has not been prejudicial to the morals of the inhabitants of the village.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There are no plantations of wood, nor hardly any thing that deserves the name of an inclosure, as there are neither hedges, nor stone fences, which deserve to be noticed. The distance from Aberdeen, and the short leases, added to the want of capital in the farmers, are great disadvantages to a district naturally fertile. The carrying a canal to Inver from Aberdeen, and granting long leases, with periodical rises of rent, and advancing money to purchase lime, free of interest for two years, would soon render this parish, and the district of Garioch, antiently called the granary of Aberdeen, one of the most valuable districts in North Britain.

N U M B E R XXXIII.

PARISH OF QUEENSFERRY.

(COUNTY OF WEST LoTHIAN.—SYNOD OF LoTHIAN
AND Tweedale.—PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW).

By Mr JOHN HENDERSON, *Minister.*

Origin of the Name.

QUEENSFERRY (the passage of the Queen) derives its name from Margaret, Queen of Malcolm Canmore, a Princess celebrated for her charitable and beneficent virtues. She frequented the passage much, and was the great patroness of the place; hence the name by which it is now distinguished certainly originated.

Situation and Extent.—Queensferry is situated in the county of West Lothian, in the presbytery of Linlithgow, and in the synod of Lothian and Tweedale. The parish is of small extent, consisting only of the borough, (the royalty not extending to the two ends of the town). It is an erection within the parish of Dalmeny, which took place in the year 1636; is surrounded by that parish on the south-west and east, and bounded by the Frith of Forth on the north.

Manufactures.—The principal manufacture of this place is that of soap. It was here that first in Scotland the making of brown soap was brought to its present degree of perfection.

This manufacture commenced about the year 1770, and has since been carried on with varying success. From the year 1783 to 1789, it was a flourishing and extensive trade. There were 4 large works, which employed from 20 to 30 labouring men, and paid an excise-duty from 8000*l.* to 10,000*l. per annum.* In the year 1789, the soap trade in Scotland met a considerable check. It was for some time almost annihilated here. It has since, however, happily revived, and is now carried on with a great deal of spirit.

Commerce.—The commerce of this town has been for a long time in a state of decline. About the year 1640, the shipmasters here were owners of above 20 vessels, most of them large brigs, and generally employed in the carrying trade. But as this trade has been found often to shift its situations, this place at present has none of it. About 9 years ago, several vessels were built here, one of them a ship above 500 tons burden, and fitted out for the Greenland fishery. A trade was carried on by a very spirited inhabitant. But as lately he sold the whole of his shipping, at present there is not a vessel belonging to this port.

Fishery.—Attempts have been made to establish a fishery here, at least such a fishery as might supply the town and neighbourhood, but hitherto without success; although it is the general opinion, that 2 or 3 industrious fishermen might settle here to advantage. The fish to be found in this part of the Frith are cod, haddocks, whittings, skate, flounders, herrings, crabs, lobsters, and oysters. There are also some very fine muscle scalps. The herring fishery, which has lately taken place in this neighbourhood, forms a most pleasant article in a statistical account.

It began at the end of the year 1792, opposite to this, and

in the part of the Frith without the Bay of Inverkeithing. During that season a plentiful supply of good herrings was sent to the coast towns, and to many inland places at a considerable distance. Next season the herrings were still more plentiful, and the markets more plentifully supplied. Little was done in curing for foreign markets. The merchants, who were inclined to engage in the trade, regretted that they were not provided with the necessary articles of barrels and salt. The last was a season of an extensive and profitable fishery. From the middle of October to the 1st of March last, from this place, you could count from 80 to 100 boats almost every day busily and successfully employed. Herrings were found in great abundance from Burntisland to above Borrowstounness. Fishermen resorted to this from all quarters. A single boat often came in with 30 or 40 barrels, which were sold for 8 l. or 10 l. A great number of herring busses came from Glasgow, by the great canal, and had a most successful fishery. Vast quantities were cured and sent to the foreign markets. About 6000 barrels were cured at this port. The inland part of the country was plentifully supplied, at the distance of 30 or 40 miles, by land carriage. The retail price here notwithstanding, at an average, was not more than 6 d a hundred.

It is a pretty general opinion, that the herring shoals have formerly frequented this part of the Frith, and might often have been found in the places where the fishery has been lately so successful. If so, it is a subject of much regret, that the opportunities of such a profitable fishery have been lost; and the public are taught not to neglect to explore the seas which surround our island, as almost every part of them is found to contain stores not only sufficient to diffuse plenty among the inhabitants, but also amply to reward and enrich the

So long then as the passage is furnished with good boats and yawls, well manned; so long as it is kept under its present regulations; and so long as the rates of the several freights are so reasonable, or rather so very low, the public ought to be well satisfied that it continue with the present proprietors. There is, however, an object of great importance, respecting the passage, to which the attention of the public ought to be directed, that is, the state of the landing-places, or *shippings*, as they are called. These, especially at South Queensferry, are not in good repair; nor have a sufficient number of them been built, so as to render the passage commodious. One, called the Gray Shipping west of the pier, is in total disrepair, though it is a landing place much frequented when the water is far back, especially at spring tides. It is painful for a spectator to witness the difficulties passengers meet, the dangers to which they are exposed in getting to or from that place, as they have to scramble a considerable way among rocks and large stones, rendered slippery by being covered with wet sea-weed. To this landing-place the boatmen are often obliged to carry, with much jeopardy to themselves, the great mail on the north road. The only fund for upholding the landing-places, on both sides, is an appropriation of the 40th part of the gross freights, called the *ferry silver*, amounting, at an average, to about 35*l. per annum*; a sum far from being sufficient. Occasional aid has been given by the Royal Boroughs, and by the Commissioners for the forfeited estates. When, therefore, it is considered that this is one of the most frequented passages in the kingdom, and that it will continue to be much frequented from its many conveniencies, which are well known, every thing relating to its regulations, and the state of its repairs, is interesting to the public. The police of the country has been actively and usefully employed in making
and

and repairing roads and bridges; and, it is humbly apprehended, it would also be usefully employed in directing its attention to the state of the landing-places of this ferry, by taking measures for the raising and appropriating a sufficient fund for building and keeping them in proper repair, by which the passage might be rendered more safe, and much more commodious *.

Population.—The population of this parish, as stated to Dr Webster about 44 years ago, was 400. In 1791 an accurate list was taken, when the number of souls amounted to 505. It has since varied little.

Abstract of the Births, Marriages, and Burials, as they are entered in the parish register for the last 10 years.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>	<i>Burials.</i>
1785,	12	3	24
1786,	21	6	10
1787,	15	3	12
1788,	22	2	20
1789,	15	4	24
1790,	14	5	8
1791,	15	2	18
1792,	28	7	10
1793,	9	2	20
1794,	22	1	13
Total	173	35	159
Yearly average	$17\frac{3}{10}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$15\frac{9}{10}$

Poor.

* Perhaps the best way of effecting this would be, by an act of Parliament, for levying additional rates, and borrowing, upon the credit of the fund. what might be necessary for repairing the landing places, and other improvements at the Ferry.

Poor.—The parish funds are ample, consisting of the collection at the church-doors, amounting, at an average, to 22 l. and of the interest of a considerable sum of money. The parish being small, and the state of the poor perfectly known to the session, they have adopted it as a rule, not considering the poor as the best economists, to give small pensions once a month, and to supply them according to the exigencies, as in personal or family distress, to give coals, pay house-rents, &c. The average number of poor on the roll is 16.

Stipend.—The stipend was lately augmented, and is now worth 105 l. *per annum*. There is neither manse nor glebe. The Magistrates and Town-Council are patrons.

Sea-Bathing Quarters.—The water, rendered stronger by the narrowness of the Frith at this place; its vicinity to Edinburgh; its easy communication with that city; the dryness and salubrity of the air; the beauty and variety of the surrounding scenery; the excellent accommodation for lodging, all render Queensferry a most convenient and pleasant situation for sea-bathing quarters.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The weather in this neighbourhood is particularly dry, and the climate healthful. Several persons lately died in this parish upwards of 90. For more than 12 years past, there has been no epidemical disease except the confluent small-pox, as there are still some people among us who, from scruples, resist the salutary practice of inoculation.

This was originally a sea-faring town; and a great proportion of its inhabitants are men who have been employed in this line, who, having acquired a decent competency, and having
always

always kept up a connection and attachment, have returned to their families and their friends, to settle and spend their days in the place of their nativity. Thus the society of a little town is continued, enlarged, and made more happy.

From this circumstance, which must have influence on early education, and from a sort of sea-bustle, which is every day to be seen here, on account of the passage, it has happened that most of the young men have been inclined to try their fortune at sea. During the late American war, there were from 30 to 40 sailors from this town in his Majesty's service. In the present war there are 35. Some of them officers in the army, or surgeons, or lieutenants and midshipmen in the navy; all of them employed in the service of their country.

NUMBER XXXIV.

PARISH OF NESTING,

IN SHETLAND.

By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries.

Name, &c.

NESTING, like the greater number, if not all the names of places in the Shetland Islands, is evidently of Norwegian extraction. Its meaning is unknown, the Norse language being at present no longer spoken in Shetland. The ministry of Nesting consists of four different parts. The parish of Nesting, the parish of Lunnefting, and the parish of Whalsay. To these are annexed the detached islands of Skerries, which, about twenty years ago, formed a part of a very extensive charge, established on the royal bounty, for a missionary paid from that fund. For these many years the salary has been discontinued: and, of consequence, the poor inhabitants of these detached islands of Toulafair Isle, and Skerries, who labour under many local disadvantages, inseparably annexed to their situation by the God of Nature, have now to lament, that they are deprived of their only mean of religious instruction. There is however a fair prospect of getting this useful mission re-established by the Committee on the Royal Bounty. This ministry forms a part of the presbytery of Shetland, which has synodical powers within itself, as no appeal

appeal lies from that presbytery, but to the General Assembly.

Fisheries.—The inhabitants adventure in what we call the Great Fisheries of ling, cod, and tusk; but the principal part of their subsistence arises from the small fishing of pill-tock and fillock, which, except in very extraordinary years, they can pursue at no expence, and with great advantage, all the year round.

Population.—This ministry contains a greater number of inhabitants, in proportion to the rental land, than any other in Shetland, owing to the exertions of the two principal heritors, Mr Bruce Stewart of Symbister, and Mr Hunter of Lunna, in making outsets, or new settlements, on grounds formerly uncultivated. These improvements have been attempted with the view of increasing the number of fishermen on their respective estates; but when the fishing fails, as it often does, these settlers on new grounds become burdens on the proprietor; and, without the assistance of their landmaster, must starve, when the small fishing fails for their support; for none of them have a possession of land, that, with the best cultivation, and in the most favourable years, can supply their families in meal, or any kind of grain, for nearly one half of the year.

So long as the present proprietors of Whalsay and Lunnessing are able to continue in the management of their own lands the tenants may continue, and the lands may be cultivated; but, should the successors of these gentlemen have a less active, or a different turn of mind, there is reason to fear a great decrease of the population.

**Population of Nesting, Lunnesting, Whalfay, and Skerries,
in the year 1781.**

	Number of souls.
Nesting, 91 families - - -	485
Lunnesting, 80 families - - -	480
Whalfay Island 84 families - - -	500
Skerry Isles, 11 families. - - -	70
<hr/>	
Total number of souls in 1781	1535

It is believed that the above state is not greatly under or above the truth, although it is just now only stated from memory. There is no doubt, that the present population of this ministry is considerably increased; and I am inclined to believe, that now (1793) the inhabitants are not under 1800. The stipend of this ministry is at present one of the highest in these islands. An augmentation was granted about 16 years ago, which raises the value of the living, *communibus annis*, to about 85*l.* Sterling. But as both parsonage and vicarage tithes are payable in butter and oil, the minister's income will vary according as the prices of these two articles rise or fall. When the butter and oil are at a high price, then the minister's stipend is high in proportion; but when the prices of these two articles fall, the value of the living is in proportion diminished.

Roads and Bridges.—The roads, bridges, &c. are in the same state here as in every other part of Shetland; that is to say, there are none.

Ecclesiastical State.—There are three churches, all in very good repair, in this extensive ministry, where the minister officiates in rotation; first, at Nesting, second Sabbath, Lun-

na, third Sabbath, Whalsay; and, in the summer, he visits the detached islands of Skerries, for a week in the year.

Agriculture.—The agriculture in this ministry is in the same wretched state that it is in all the Shetland islands. The people direct their sole attention to the fishing, and consider the cultivation of the lands as only a secondary object.

Shipwrecks.—On the coasts of this extensive ministry shipwrecks often happen; and it ought to be mentioned, to the credit of the inhabitants, that the poor sufferers have, on all occasions, been treated with the greatest humanity. One instance only, out of many that might be adduced, shall here be mentioned. In the year 1780, a Russian frigate was wrecked on the island of Whalsay. Mr Bruce Stewart, the proprietor of that island, ordered immediately his tenants to fit out proper boats to save what lives could be saved. Unfortunately all their exertions, which were made at the risk of their own lives, could save only five of the Russian sailors. These five men were entertained by Mr Bruce at his hospitable mansion for several months, and sent home to their native country. From the report of these five men, the Empress of Russia gave orders to her ambassador at the Court of London, to write, in her name, a letter of thanks to Mr Bruce of Symabister; which letter I have seen. It does honour to her, as a Sovereign who deigns to interest herself in the kindness shown to her subjects in distress. Many more instances might be mentioned of the humanity shown by the inhabitants of this parish to sailors in distress. Unfortunately, they have too many calls on their humanity in this way.

Means of Improvement.—One observation applies to this ministry, as well as to all the other parishes in Shetland Islands, namely,

namely, that they never can be made of such importance to the British Empire as they might be, unless proper manufactures are introduced among them. Leases granted, of a proper duration, and manufacturing villages established.

Conclusion.—It is hoped that the account of the minister of the parish will render it unnecessary to make any use of this imperfect sketch, which is only wrote in a hurry from mere memory, by a person who resided there, in a public character, about the year 1781, but who could not think, with patience, that there should be any blank in the Statistical Account of Scotland, if it was in his power to supply it.

NUMBER XXXV.

PARISH OF LARGS*.

By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries.

Situation, &c.

THE parish of Largs is situated in the district of Cunninghame, one of the divisions of the county of Ayr, at the northern extremity, about thirty miles due west from Glasgow. It extends about nine miles from Kelly-burn, which separates it on the north from the parish of Innerkip, in the shire of Renfrew, along the Frith of Clyde, which bounds it on the west, in a line nearly parallel with the fife of Bute, to the parish of West Kilbride, which bounds it on the south at a little distance from the village of Fairly. From the village of Largs, it extends about 7 or 8 miles to the hill of Stake, the summit of an extensive ridge of hills running from Greenock to Kilwinning, and separating the parish of Largs from the adjacent country on the east. This circumstance, occasioned the common saying among the inhabitants of the inland parishes, " Out of the world, and into the Largs."

No parish in the west of Scotland, and few in the Highlands, can afford such a variety of beautiful and romantic scenes.

* The Statistical Account of Largs, printed in the II. volume, Being rather short and defective, the valuable addition to it, herewith printed, was sent by an intelligent and respectable friend to this great undertaking.

scenes. The hills, which begin to rise in the neighbouring parishes of Greenock, Kilmacolm, Lochwinnoch, Kilbirny, and Dalry, meet in a kind of general summit at the eastern boundary of Largs, from which they gradually descend as they approach the shore, till they terminate at last in a variety of abrupt declivities, some of which are almost perpendicular, as if part of their base had been torn away by force. Notwithstanding the vast height of these hills, they are covered, during the greater part of the year, with verdure, and afford such excellent pasture for sheep, and some of them for larger cattle, as can hardly be found elsewhere in similar situations.

The quantity of heath, even on the highest hills, is comparatively small; and, from indisputable marks it appears, that some of them have once been cultivated.

Soil, Agriculture, and Produce — The whole extent of the parish of Largs may, from several surveys, none of which are entirely accurate, be estimated at 19,743 acres. The estate of Brisbane alone, with the fees belonging to it, contains 9,748 acres, 2 fells, and 27 perches. The arable lands in the parish, consist of about 4200 acres, rather more than one fifth of the whole. The rest of it is now wholly appropriated to pasture, though a far greater proportion bears evident marks of the plough. About a thousand acres of the higher grounds are of little value; the rest, however, is excellent for feeding sheep and rearing young cattle. In the lower grounds a number of cattle are fattened, so as to find a ready market in Greenock and other neighbouring towns. One stock farm, the property of the Earl of Glasgow, yields very near 500 l. yearly, neat rent; and several farmers, whose cattle are fed upon the pasture grounds only, make considerable quantities of butter and cheese.

The

The soil of the arable grounds is of two kinds; that on the south of Noddsdale water, comprehending Lord Glasgow's estate, and great part of Mr Brisbane's, is light and sandy, producing tolerable crops with little culture, if the season be not immoderately dry, whereas, that on the north side is a light red kind of earth lying on rocky foundations of the same colour, and inferior to the former, both for pasture and tillage.

Neither lime nor coals, worth working, have been discovered in the parish, and cannot be obtained from any place nearer than Stevenson, which is about 11 miles distant from the south end of the parish. Lime, therefore, as it can only be procured at great expence, is but little used. The most common manure is a mixture of sea-weed and dung, or dung itself, where sea-weed cannot be obtained.

The fields thus improved, and after lying five or six years in pasture, yield tolerable crops; and though the quantity of oats and barley, produced by these means, is, in general less, than in some of the neighbouring parishes, the meal is generally equal; a quarter of oats yielding generally 20 pecks of meal, sometimes more. The great obstacle to any considerable improvements in agriculture is a species of traffic in horses peculiar to this parish.

Farmers, mechanics, and even servants, who can afford to buy a horse, are engaged in it. Some individuals have from 10 to a dozen of horses, some of them worth 15 l. or 20 l. for the purpose of hiring them to the farmers in the neighbouring parishes, from 20 to 30 miles round. They are usually let out from a guinea to 40s. according to their quality, from the first of February, sometimes to the 24th of March, but most commonly to the 10th of April, when they are all returned. Previous to this period, there are few horses in the whole parish; but after it there are so many in

every part of it as are sufficient for the purpose of plowing, harrowing, and performing all the operations of husbandry in two or three weeks. They are afterwards either turned loose into the higher grounds, or let out for hire during the summer season.

Another practice, which operates as an obstacle to agriculture, is that of importing oats from Ireland and the adjacent islands, and manufacturing them at home. This supplies the inhabitants with plenty. The surplus finds a ready market in Greenock, and the refuse contributes to feed the horses.

Unless the former of these practices, which is, in some measure, encouraged by the latter, be abandoned, considerable improvements in agriculture can hardly be expected, and the nature of the soil can scarcely admit of great improvements.

The arable grounds yield, in general, tolerable crops of oats and barley; they rival every other in producing great quantities of potatoes, and of the best quality. The orchards are, indeed, inferior; but their gardens, in general, superior to most in the same latitude.

An attempt to reclaim some of the lands in the north end of the parish, which are covered with heath, might be worth the experiment, as they are not so high as to preclude all hopes of success.

The old Scotch plough is generally used. Mr Hill at Kelburn uses the chain-plough, with Small's improved mould-board.

Population.—Largs, though an extensive parish, does not contain a great proportion of arable ground. It has no commerce, except a share in the coasting trade. It contains but few inhabitants. According to an accurate calculation made lately,

lately, there are, in the village of Largs, Men 243, Women 259, in all 502.

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Fairly	60	72	132
Country parts	171	222	391

Total - - - 1025

Number of females more than males 77

In the year 1756, the inhabitants were said to have been 1164. There has since been a decrease, owing to several small farms, being comprehended in greater ones, and a number evacuated to enlarge the plantations at Kelburn.

From accurate information, 51 persons have left the parish since 1791, more than have settled in it during that period.

In the village of Largs there are,

Surgeon	-	-	-	-	1
Weavers	-	-	-	-	70
Carpenters	-	-	-	-	13
Cordwainers	-	-	-	-	7
Tailors	-	-	-	-	8
Smiths	-	-	-	-	6
Coopers	-	-	-	-	6
Masons	-	-	-	-	5
Sailors	-	-	-	-	7
Butchers	-	-	-	-	2
Inn-keeper	-	-	-	-	1
Ale-houses	-	-	-	-	4
Carriers	-	-	-	-	2*

In the village of Fairly,

Inn-keeper	-	-	-	1
				Taylor

* There are two Packets to Glasgow belonging to Largs,

Taylor	-	-	-	1
Weavers	-	-	-	6
Carpenters	-	-	-	4
Smiths	-	-	-	1
Cooper	-	-	-	1
Shoemakers	-	-	-	2
Sailors	-	-	-	5
Ale-houses	-	-	-	3

Air and Climate.—As the parish lies near the sea, and is surrounded by very high hills, it has generally its full proportion of rain, which is very serviceable to the light sandy soil, of which the greatest part of the parish consists.

The air at Largs is commonly pure. The thick fogs which often surround Glasgow, Paisley, and the adjacent country, frequently cover the hills, but seldom visit the low countries. In time of frost, this circumstance is peculiarly remarkable, while in other places the air is thick and hazy, here the sky is clear and serene. Many of the sickly inhabitants of Glasgow and Paisley have felt sensible advantages from the air of Largs; some of them have been entirely recovered, and yet the parish affords, comparatively, few instances of longevity.

The chief old persons in it are,	Age.
William Crawford	86
James Martin, Largs	85
Robert Adam, Kipping-burn	84
Alexander Hair, Outer-wards	87

In 1754, James Hendry died at Tourgill, aged 103 years. But if the inhabitants of Largs do not live longer than those

of other parishes, they certainly enjoy better health. Medical assistance is seldom necessary, unless for those who have been infected elsewhere.

Cattle.—Owing to a circumstance formerly mentioned, there are probably more horses in this parish than in most others of the same extent. As they are continually changing their pastures, and frequently their owners, it is impossible to calculate their number with precision. From the most accurate and authentic information, there are at present in the parish,

309 horses
2009 black cattle
3460 sheep.

The sheep are mostly of the Galloway breed. A few of the larger kind of English sheep have been lately tried, and have turned to good account.

The wool is generally sold to the people of Kilmarnock, from 6s. to 12s. per stone, and about 570 stone is sold annually.

It may be added, that some horses and black cattle are fed in Kelburn parks after the first stock is removed.

Roads, &c.—The great road from Glasgow to Port-Patrick runs through the whole extent of the parish. Formerly, it went over some high roads towards the north end of it; but, about five years ago, a new road was made from Skelmurly to Largs, along the shore. The expence of this is defrayed by a toll at Kelly-bridge, rented at 72 l. 15 s. The conversion of statute labour is 47 l. 10 s. The roads is kept in good repair; there are bridges upon it, three of which are lately built.

The

The rest of the parish, however, is in great want of roads. There is no private road, of any great extent, kept in even tolerable repair, except the road to Brisbane, which was made, and is still kept in repair at the proprietor's expence, though it is the only communication with the upper end of the parish where it joins Kilmacolm.

It is proposed to make two new roads ; one over the hills, so as to communicate with Kilbirny on the east, and Dalry on the south east, and another through to Kilmacolm on the north east. These improvements, which have been often talked of, but never executed, would add considerably to the value of the lands, and convenience of the inhabitants, by opening a communication with many parts of the adjacent country, at present, in a great measure, inaccessible, except by foot passengers, or horses accustomed to the roads. On the south and north of the village of Largs are two large rivulets or burns. The water of Nodesdale to the north, and Gogo to the south.

Nodesdale is a very impetuous stream. It runs through Mr Brisbane's pleasure grounds, where it has often committed great depredations. Mr Brisbane has frequently endeavoured to imbank it, and has been at great pains and expence in raising mounds of earth to turn its course, but in vain.

As soon as the heavy rains come, it overcomes all obstructions, and, running with unusual impetuosity through a light and gravelly soil, has, in the course of a few years, destroyed many acres of land to the proprietor.

Fisheries.—The salmon caught on this coast are of the best quality. Since the fishermen came from the north country great quantities have been caught, which are mostly sold at Greenock and Port-Glasgow. The salmon fishing is at present rented at 27 l. Mr Brisbane's proportion is 20 l. The rest is Lord Glasgow's and Colonel Montgomery's.

It would produce much more profit were they not dispersed in so many places, and at such a distance from each other.

Mackerel, haddocks, whittings, and cod, are caught on every bank in large quantities. A single boat, with four or five hands, has been known to take twenty stone of them in a day. In 1793, when a number of boats were employed, it is computed, that, for the space of a month, they took, at an average, 18 stone every day.

They are sold, at the village of Largs, from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. per stone; and, when carried to Paisley and the neighbouring towns, they bring at the rate of 3 s. 4 d.

Considerable quantities of herrings were formerly taken on this coast, and smaller quantities are still taken at a little distance from it.

Proprietors.—The proprietors in this parish are, the Earl of Glasgow, Thomas Brisbane of Brisbane, Colonel Hugh Montgomery of Skelmurly, William Blair of Blair, and Thomas King of Blackhouse, besides William Wilson of Hailley, and Daniel Frazer of Hangenheugh, who hold of the family of Brisbane, and thirteen feuers upon the estate of Brisbane.

Of the more considerable proprietors, Mr Brisbane of Brisbane is the only residing one.

There have been few changes of property in this parish. The lands of Kelburn have been in possession of the Earl of Glasgow's ancestors upwards of 500 years.

Colonel Montgomery's ancestor was a second son of Alexander Lord Montgomery, who lived in 1440. They continued, in a direct male line, till the eldest daughter, and heiress of Sir Robert Montgomery of Skelmurly, married Alexander Montgomery of Colsfield. She was mother to the present proprietor.

Mr

Mr. Brisbane of Brisbane, chief of that name, of an ancient family in Renfrewshire, has had some of the land he now possesses, belonging to the estate, upwards of 200 years.

About two years ago, the part of the late James Bannytan of Kelly, lying in this parish, was sold, after having been upwards of 300 years in the family. The small property of Hailley, the possession of Mr William Wilson, has belonged to his forefathers since 1516, as appears by a seizure of Alexander Master of Semple to James Wilson.

Valuation, &c.—The valuation of this parish is 3801 l. Scotch. The real value is about 3500 l. Sterling.

The value of land has risen considerably of late.

In 1754, the parks of Kelburn rented	-	L.	149	6	3
In the year 1794	-	-	-	-	471 5 0

There is a small inclosure, called Fairley Mill Park, containing about 9 acres, 2 of which are very bad pasture; it gives 41 l. yearly rent.

Hangenheugh and Routdonburn, feu from Brisbane estate, rented in 1762 at	-	-	-	-	L.	9	0	0
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In 1794, at	-	-	-	-	-	L.	52	0	0
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Likewise the small property of Hailley was, in 1764, rented at 9 l.; yields, in 1794, 60 l. *per annum* to the proprietor, in setting it out in small lots to the inhabitants of the village of Largs for potatoes.

Church, &c.—The church is an old building, erected before the Reformation, but at what period is uncertain. In the north side is an aisle, containing an elegant monument, belonging to Colonel Montgomery of Skelmurly. It forms an arch and two compartments, supported by 18 pillars, of the Corinthian order, surmounted with cherubims. Above the arch is a small pyramid, finished at top with a globe. It

is very richly carved, and with great taste, considering the time in which it was built, namely, in 1636.

On the roof of the aile are painted the 12 signs of the zodiac, and several views of the house of Skelmurly; with the premature death of a lady of the family, who was killed by the kick of a horse.

It is likewise adorned with several texts of Scripture, and various escutcheons of the different members of that ancient family.

Below is a vault, built by Sir Robert Montgomery, who, becoming serious in the after part of his life, repaired hither at night for devotional exercises; by these means burying himself as it were alive.

There are two niches in the walls for coffins; and Sir Robert himself, with his lady, Margaret Douglas, daughter to Sir James Douglas of Drumlanrig, ancestor to the Duke of Queensberry, lie in two leaden coffins.

She died in 1624. On Sir Robert's is the following inscription:

*Ipse mihi prae-mortuus fui: Facto funere,
Praeripui. Unicum, idque Caesarium
Exemplar inter tot mortales secutus.*

This plainly alludes to the Emperor Charles V. who had his funeral obsequies performed before his death.

Colonel Montgomery, the lineal descendant of Sir Robert, is patron; the Reverend Mr Stephen Rowan, minister.

At the Revolution and establishment of the Church of Scotland, in 1689, Mr John Wilson was settled. He died in 1699, aged 44. He was succeeded, in 1701, by Mr Andrew Cummin, who died in 1762, aged 88, in the 61st year of his ministry. Upon his death followed Mr Gilbert Lang, who had been settled as his assistant and successor from 1756.

He died in 1791, in the 66th year of his age. His successor is the present incumbent.

The stipend is 8 chalders, besides half a chaldar for communion elements, commuted for money according to the fiars of the College of Glasgow.

The glebe is 7 acres and a half, arable; but no grass, with a good manse, situated at about a quarter of a mile north of the church. The poor's funds are 1032 l. besides the weekly collections, which are, at an average, about 40 l. *per annum*.

On the roll there are 20 people, who receive from one guinea yearly to 4 l.; three weekly pensioners, at 2 s. 6 d. per week; besides 21 poor, who receive small sums, as their exigencies require.

John Morrice of Craig, Esq; who was born in this parish, and acquired an opulent fortune in the West Indies, left 50 l. to the poor in 1788.

The late Countess-Dowager of Glasgow, with that humanity and goodness which so eminently distinguished her character, when she left this parish in 1775, upon the death of her Lord, ordered 10 l. *per annum* to be distributed at the discretion of the minister.

The funds of the parish school are liberal. Mr Hannibal Hall, surgeon at Dublin, a native of this parish, left to the school 175 l. The master's salary is about 20 l. He has from 60 to 70 scholars, from whom he receives quarterly,

For reading	-	-	-	1 s. 6 d.
For writing	-	-	-	2 s.
Arithmetic	-	-	-	2 s. 6 d.
Latin	-	-	-	3 s.

The present schoolmaster is Mr John Macqueen. There are likewise two smaller schools at the south and north ends of the parish, at the village of Fairley, and at Skelmurly.

The

The greater number of the inhabitants are of the Established Church. About 50 families are Burghers; and, to the honour of both parties, they live together in mutual amity, without exhibiting, in almost any instance, the smallest alienation of affection on account of different religious sentiments.

Antiquities.—There are several castles, and houses of considerable antiquity, in the parish. Skelmurly castle was built in 1502, and had a new addition in 1636.

The old castle of Knock was built above 300 years ago. It was the property of an ancient family, of the name of Fraser, descended from John Fraser, third son of Hugh Fraser of Lovat, and his wife Isabel, daughter to Sir David Weems of Weems. They had a grant of these lands from King Robert III. in 1402. It is now in ruins, and belongs to Mr Brisbane of Brisbane.

The castle of Fairley, formerly possessed by the ancient family of Fairley, said to be descended from a natural son of King Robert II. is now also in ruins. It was built in 1521, and is now the property of the Earl of Glasgow. The old part of Kilburn-house was built in 1581.

In Brisbane-house is an old chair, made of oak, dated 1357. The arms of the family are carved on the back, which are,

Sable, a cheveron, cheque or and gulcs between three cushions of the second, with the initials of J. B. and E. H. This chair, being still in excellent preservation, may serve for many centuries to show the name and family of Brisbane to succeeding generations.

There are two moats, or mounds of earth, at each end of the village of Largs, of that kind called Law-hills, at the distance of four miles up the water of Noddsdale, at a place called Tourgill.

There

There is one of a similar appearance, but much larger; it is now generally thought to be natural.

On the top of the Knock-hill is the vestige of a small camp, with three regular entrenchments. Above Hailley, and directly opposite to the camp just mentioned, about the distance of three miles, are the remains of an ancient fortification, which is still called the Castle-hill.

There are likewise several *tumuli* in the parish, generally believed to have been raised after the battle of Largs, over the bodies of the slain. This battle was fought in the reign of King Alexander III. in 1263, between the Scots and Norwegians. The Scotch army was commanded by Alexander Stewart, grandfather to the first Monarch of that family. The Norwegians or Danes, under Haco their King, were routed with great slaughter, and many of them taken prisoners. Haco himself escaped, with great difficulty, to his ships.

The field of battle is still shown. A large plain, to the southward of the village of Largs, is supposed to have been the scene of action. Cairns of stones were on it, formed, it was said, over pits, into which the bodies of the slain were thrown. A coarse granite stone, about 10 feet high, stood in the centre of this field, supposed to be erected over the body of a chieftain. It has now fallen down.

The Earl of Glasgow and Mr Brisbane had, each of them, Danish axes found in the field. Mr Brisbane presented one of them to the Society of Antiquarians for Scotland.

Mr Wilson of Hailley, having occasion for stones to inclose part of his grounds in the year 1772, opened a small hill, called Margaret's Law, supposed to be natural, but found to be a collection of stones, containing upwards of 15,000 cart loads; in the centre of which were discovered five stone coffins, two of them containing five skulls each,
with

with other human bones, and several earthen urns. It is generally believed they had been there since the battle of Largs. The name *Hailley* seems to give countenance to this conjecture, being derived from the old Saxon word *had il*, a grave.

In the parish of Dalry, on the south-east boundary of Largs, is a farm, called *Camp-hill*, where the Scotch army is said to have been encamped previous to the engagement.

Between that and the village of Largs is Routdonburn, supposed to derive its name from a detachment of Haco's army being routed there; and *Don* is a contraction for Dane. What renders this more probable is, that, on the bank of the Routdonburn, is a large cairn of stones; upon removing part of which, lately, a stone coffin was found. Between that and the sea is Burly-gate; a little lower, in the Earl of Glasgow's plantations, is Killing-craig; and farther southward is Kipping-burn, where, it is said, a number of the flying Danes were met by Sir Robert Boyd, ancestor to the Earl of Kilmarnock, afterwards the friend and confident of the famous King Robert Bruce, and put to the sword.

These names are a kind of confirmation of a battle having happened at this place.

Miscellaneous Remarks.—The inhabitants of this parish are, in general, sober, industrious, and economical. Though they enjoy very few conveniencies for making money, many of them are possessed of considerable sums.

Almost all of them study to provide for futurity; and thus they are enabled to make the most of their situation. Accordingly, they are in general richer than many in the adjacent parishes, whose advantages are greater.

The plague visited Largs in 1644, and carried off great numbers; among others, Mr Alexander Smith, then minister of the parish.

There

There is a tradition, that, before his death, he asserted that he should be the last who would die of that disease, which happened accordingly *.

At the Outterwards, a farm in the north-east extremity of Brisbane estate, on a small holm, lying on the water of Nodesdale, were discovered the foundations of several small buildings, said to be the remains of huts, to which the inhabitants of the village of Largs, and adjacent country, retired to avoid the infection. There is in Largs a weekly market on Thursdays, and four annual fairs, the most remarkable of which is St Columba's day, vulgarly called *Comb's day*, which is held on the second Tuesday of June.

This

* His tomb is still to be seen, about half a mile above Brisbane-house, with the following inscription on a plain stone, in which, it is said, there is an allusion to the forementioned tradition, round the edge.—Here lyeth the Reverend Alexander Smith, minister of Largs, a faithful minister of the gospel, removed by the pestilence 1644.

INSCRIPTION.

Conditus in
Tumulo hoc jaceo
Invinisque
Senexque; nempus
Annis juvenis,
Sed pietate
Senex, Divins
Eloguio, caelestia
dogmata
Vide absterfi
Tenebras, mentibus
ore tonans
Attonilogue
Hæsil animo
Per vera malo-
rum colluvies,
Verbis improba
Facto meis.

This fair is famous over the west of Scotland, and continues from Monday to Thursday. Great numbers of people, from 40 or 50 miles round, resort to it, some for business, and some for pleasure. Upwards of 100 boats are often to be seen, on this occasion, riding in the Bay.

The whole week is a kind of jubilee to the inhabitants, and a scene of diversion to others.

Such a vast multitude cannot be accommodated with beds; and the Highlanders, in particular, do not seem to think such accommodation necessary. They spend the whole night in rustic sports, carousing and dancing on the green to the sound of the bagpipe. Every one who chooses is allowed to join in this, which forms their principal amusement.

The candidates for the dance are generally so numerous, that it is kept up without intermission during the whole time of the fair.

This was formerly the general meeting place of Highlanders and Lowlanders, for the purpose of exchanging the commodities which each of them could spare for others of greater utility.

Since shops have been opened, and pedlars have visited the different islands, this fair has gradually decreased; it is still, however, better frequented than any in the country. Few scenes can afford objects more worthy of attention to the philosopher, who wishes to contemplate human nature in its simplest and most undisguised forms, or to the benevolent man, who rejoices to see that a great part of human happiness belongs to the virtuous poor.

Conclusion.—Fairley road is one of the most convenient in the Frith of Clyde. Vessels of any burthen may ride in it at all seasons, and loose from it with any wind.

Opposite .

Opposite the village of Largs, the water is several fathoms deep almost at the very shore. The inhabitants have generally a taste for the sea; and many of them have money, which might be employed to good purpose in trade.

All circumstances contribute to render Largs proper for a sea-port town. The only obstacles are, the want of a harbour, and good roads through the country, to facilitate the conveyance of goods by land. Were these to be removed, some kind of manufacture to be established, and an act of Parliament procured for the roads, levying harbour dues, &c. the numbers and wealth of the inhabitants would at once be increased; and this would operate as a stimulus to the improvement of the soil. A place possessing so many beauties and natural advantages, with the addition of trade and manufactures, would have inducements not only to retain the number of inhabitants, but to allure others to settle there. If the parish, however, has not the advantage of more opulent districts, in trade, manufactures, and commerce, it is entirely free of the vices which luxury introduces; and, in this troublesome and distracted period, the inhabitants, with the exception of a few individuals, may be truly said both to fear God and honour their King.

NUMBER XXXVI.

PARISH OF LETHENDY.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.—SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.—PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD.)

By Mr LAURENCE BUTTER, *Minister*.

Situation and Extent.

THE parish of Lethendy is situated in the county of Perth, within the bounds of the synod of Perth and Stirling, and presbytery of Dunkeld. Its extent, in a direct line from east to west, is five miles; its greatest breadth from south to north, a mile and an half. It is bounded on the east by the Burn of Lunan, which divides it from the parish of Blaingowrie, on the south by Caputh, and on the west and north by Clunie, parishes. From the eastern extremity the ground rises gently westward the whole length of the parish, except on the west point, where it falls suddenly for about half a mile. The river Tay formerly washed the south west side of this parish. It has now retired southward to the distance of nearly two miles, by cuts made at different periods, leaving behind it, in several places, visible traces of its former course.

Soil and Climate.—The west half of the parish is a black mould inclining to a reddish clay, excepting some small corners, exceedingly rich, and well adapted to all kinds of crops.

Towards the east, the soil becomes blacker, more wet, and less productive. From the southern exposure of the parish, the climate is perhaps a little milder than that of the parishes immediately adjoining. The difference, however, is not material. Harvest commences usually in the beginning of September, and is over by the middle of October.

State of Agriculture.—Thirty years ago, the best lands in the parish were under sheep pasture, and from a bad breed, and probably unskilful management, yielded but a poor pittance to the proprietor, and but a very scanty subsistence to the tenant. Since that period, sheep have been banished entirely; the use of marl has been adopted; the waste lands have been cultivated; the rental of the parish trebled; the condition of the tenants meliorated; and the face of the country entirely changed. But rapid as this improvement has been, it was much longer of having reached its present state, than a judicious treatment of the soil would have brought it. This obstruction is principally to be ascribed, to a mistake respecting the qualities of marl; and an error in the system of cropping. Experience has now proved, that there is no nutritive quality in marl, that it acts only as a stimulus to the soil, which, if not enriched with different manure, it soon exhausts, and reduces to a state of absolute sterility. Want of attention to this circumstance, considerably retarded the improvements in agriculture in this, as well as in many other parts of the country. The lands, when first marled, produced abundantly for several years without any other manure; and, while they continued to do so, were kept in a state of constant tillage, and oats frequently sown in perpetual succession. From this improper management, the nutritious part of the soil was exhausted, and required a rest of
many

sunny years, in order to recruit its prolific powers. Even this cessation from tillage was not followed with any material advantage. Artificial grasses were yet unknown; and the ground, thus reduced, derived but little nourishment from the natural and scanty productions of the soil. These mistakes, however, have been discovered, and their effects have now, in a good measure, ceased. The necessity of following marl with dung is admitted on all hands, and the introduction of artificial grasses into the system of cropping universally adopted.

But though this practice has been followed with very beneficial consequences, there is yet much room for further improvement. Perhaps the rotation of crops is not the best that might be devised, and the proportion of green crop to that of grain is still too small. No uniform rotation is adopted in the parish, nor is it always invariable on the same farm. Where any thing like a system is pursued, the following is the most general: Oats, barley, oats, green crop, or fallow; oats, barley with grass seeds. Probably oats, green crop, barley with grass seeds, would be a better rotation. The green crop in this parish consists of potatoes, turnips, pease, lint, nearly in equal proportions. There has been no wheat sown in this parish till within these few years, nor is it yet cultivated to any extent, though the soil is by no means unfavourable to it. This is partly owing to the influence of custom, and the size of the farms. A great part of the parish is divided into small farms of about six, eight, or ten acres. These are generally occupied by tradesmen, whose ideas are not sufficiently enlarged for following the most approved modes of husbandry, and who consider their farms rather as a matter of convenience, than of profit. But if this circumstance is less favourable to agricultural improvements; the

the loss is perhaps more than balanced by its beneficial influence upon population and morals. By dividing their time betwixt the labours of the field, and their occupations within doors, they are vigorous and healthy, their offspring accordingly are numerous and robust; they grow up in the habits of temperance and industry, and are strangers to those courses of dissipation and vice, to which the youth in great towns are ever exposed, and often fall a sacrifice.

Produce.—This parish produces, annually, 1614 bolls of oats, 1100 bolls of barley, 100 bolls of wheat, 100 bolls of pease, Linlithgow measure, 250 stone of lint, Amsterdam; and there are, besides, from 40 to 50 acres under potatoe and turnip crops. The returns from the seed in oats and barley, are from 5 to 8, in wheat from 10 to 12. The produce, in lint is from 20 to 25 stone per acre, and in potatoes from 40 to 60 bolls.

Woodlands.—There are in this parish from 50 to 60 acres of natural wood, consisting chiefly of oak, birch, and hazel, which, from its situation on the highest ground of the district, and being surrounded with rich corn fields, both varies and beautifies the scene. It is cut generally once in 20 years, and is valuable, chiefly on account of the bark. There is, besides this, a considerable quantity of ash around the farm houses, sufficient, perhaps, for supplying the parish with the implements of husbandry.

Live Stock.—Horses.—There are in this parish 104 horses. Since the introduction of two horse ploughs, the breed has been considerably improved. They are now of a middle size, and sell at from 12 l. to 18 l. each. A few more are reared

in the parish than are necessary for the purposes of agriculture.

Black Cattle.—The number of black cattle is 308. They are rather of a small size, and are generally sold when between two and three years old, at from 3 l. to 5 l. each. The farmers depend, in some measure, on the sale of their super-numerary horses and cattle for the payment of their rents.

Rental.—The lands are valued in the cess books of the county at 1260 l. 12 s. Scotch. The real rent is 950 l. Sterling.

Population.—The number of inhabitants in this parish, including all ages, is 367. The average number of births annually is 12. No register of deaths has been kept. The population in 1755 was 346 souls; so that there is a small increase.

Character of the People.—They are simple in their manners, frugal, industrious, and contented with their situation. Their religious ideas are somewhat confined, but their morals are unimpeachable. According to my information, nothing has occurred, in the memory of man, which has been the subject of a criminal prosecution. And, if their religious knowledge is not very extensive, they are still less versant in political creeds. The speculations of this nature, which have lately so much engaged the attention of mankind, and which have been discussed by all parties with so great warmth and uncharitableness, are here treated with much indifference. They indeed hear, and talk of reforms, and revolutions, and plots, and conspiracies, and armed associations, but without being the least alarmed, and without feeling themselves dis-
posed

posed to take an active part in support either of the one or of the other. To the war, however, in which we are engaged, though their limited information does not enable them to pronounce decisively upon its justice or necessity, yet, animated with the love of their country, they sincerely wish a favourable issue.

Mechanics.—There are in this parish 13 weavers, 5 joiners, 4 masons, 2 shoemakers, 2 tailors, 2 blacksmiths, 2 coopers, and 2 flax-dressers.

Churches.—Notwithstanding the small size of this parish, it is provided with three churches; one belonging to the Establishment, one to the Antiburgher Seceders, and one to the English Episcopal. Of these, the Established Church is by far the worst in point of structure and accommodation. None of the heritors reside in the parish, and consequently less attention is paid to keep it in a state of any decent repair. The other two are more in the style of modern buildings, and much better fitted up for the accommodation of the hearers. The whole parish, however, are of the Established Religion, excepting 24 Seceders, of whom also the greater part are women. The English Chapel was erected in this parish, merely from its being the most central situation for accommodating a few families in the neighbourhood.

Manse, Glebe, and Living.—The manse was built 8 years ago, and is a small, but substantial house. It is remarkable for its being the subject of a long law-suit, in which the principal heritor insisted that the Court of Session, in awarding a sum for the building of a new manse, could not exceed 1000*l.* Scotch, by the act 1663. This question was tried before the House of Peers; and the judgment of the Court
of

of Session; whereby they had exceeded that sum, was affirmed.

The glebe consists of about 6 acres of rich arable land. The living of the established clergyman is 61 bolls and 9 pecks of victual; 17l. Sterling; 31 capons, 43 poultry; and the tenth of lint, lamb, and wool.

Schoolmaster.—The provision for a schoolmaster in this parish is 40l. Scotch, with the school fees, and 8l. Scotch for acting as session-clerk. Even this paltry sum, it would seem, is reluctantly bestowed. The last schoolmaster died 10 years ago; the school-house had been in ruins long before; and the heritors have never yet found it convenient to provide us either with one, or with the other; an irreparable loss to the rising generation. Some steps, however, will soon be taken, for having this opprobrious grievance effectually removed.

Poor.—There are no poor's rates established in this parish. The weekly collections in the church, with the interest of a small sum of money, have hitherto been sufficient for the support of the poor. There are, at present, 3 only upon the roll, aged, infirm people; and even these require but a small trifle, in addition to the fruits of their own industry. The average weekly collection is from 2s. to 2s. 6d. Sterling.

Prices of Labour and Provisions.—The wages of a man-servant are from 10l. to 12l. Sterling a year; of a woman-servant, from 4l. to 5l. with victuals. Day-labourers receive from 15d. to 18d. a day in summer, and about 1s. in winter, without victuals. Oat-meal is here the principal food of the people, and generally sells at 1s. the peck. Butter
sells

sells at 9 d. per lib. ; cheese at from 4 s. to 5 s. per stone, Amsterdam ; beef and mutton at from 3 d. to 4 d. per lib.

Roads.—There are two roads which divide the parish nearly into four equal parts, one of which runs from east to west, and the other from south to north. Both of them have been long neglected, and are at present in a state of wretched repair. In winter, they are often totally impassable for carriages of any kind. There is also a branch of road, presently forming, leading along the south-west side of this parish to the new bridge of Isla, and to the turnpike road from thence to Perth, which will prove a considerable benefit to the country.

General Observations.—This parish is but ill provided in fuel. They carry their coal from Perth, at the distance nearly of 12 miles, and pay for them at the rate of 5 s. for every 40 stone weight. Peat-moss, however, is more generally used, which they also bring from a considerable distance ; and, taking into account the time and labour wasted in digging, drying, and carrying it home, is still more expensive than coal. There is indeed a small quantity of moss in the parish, but the liberty of making it into fuel, is confined entirely to the tenants of the proprietor.

Want of inclosures, is another disadvantage this parish labours under. A small part of the parish only is yet inclosed ; and, from the small size of the farms, and the want of spirit, and even ability in the tenants, it is not likely that this object will be soon accomplished. It is hoped the proprietors will see their own interest in lending them some assistance.

To make up, however, for these disadvantages, we have an easy access to the means of improving the soil. There is great store of shell marl in the neighbouring parish of Kinloch,

loch, at the distance only of about two miles. This has contributed, in a great measure, to the present improved state of the country. There is also marl in the parish; but, as it lies at some depth under moss and water, and would be attended with some difficulty in draining, it has never been considered as of much utility. Equally near, in the parish of Caputh, there is an inexhaustible store of lime-stone, of a good quality. There are, at present, extensive preparations making for burning it; and, notwithstanding the distance from coal, it is expected it can be sold so low as will enable the farmer to use it with advantage.

Long leases, and moderate rents, are likewise favourable circumstances in this parish. The leases, in general, are for 19 years, and during the life of the holder after the expiration of that period. Some of them extend the length even of two lives. The rent of the best land in the parish does not exceed 20 s. and the greater part is below 15 s. per acre. Thus the tenants are in a good measure independent, and enjoy all the necessaries, and many of the comforts and conveniencies of life.

NUMBER XXXVII.

PARISH OF BALFRON.

(COUNTY OF STIRLING.—SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND
AYR.—PRESBYTERY OF DUMBARTON.)

By Mr JAMES JEFFREY, Minister.

Name, Extent, &c.

BALFRON is a word of Gaelic derivation, and is said to signify “the Town of Sorrow.” On what account the place obtained this name is not certainly known. The form of the parish is nearly an oblong square. Its length, from east to west, is somewhat more than 8 miles; and its breadth, from north to south, from 1 to 2 miles. It is bounded by the parishes of Drymen, Killearn, Fintry, Gargunnoch, and Kippen. The greater part of the grounds in this parish have the advantage of a fine southern exposure, rising gradually from the water of Endrick.

Climate, Soil, &c.—The climate is wet, but not unhealthy, several of the inhabitants living to a great age; and there are few instances of epidemical diseases. An epidemical fever, indeed, prevailed in the winter and spring of 1791, and carried off, in the village, upwards of 40 grown up people. But this mortality may be ascribed, not so much to the unhealthiness of the climate, as to the intemperance of the people at the time, and the damp state of many new houses,

houses, which were occupied as soon as they were covered in, and plastered.

The soil is various. In some places it is light and sandy, but, for the most part, wet and tilly.

Agriculture is here in a state of infancy. The principal corn crop is oats. Barley is raised but in few places; and green crops are seldom attempted. Among the disadvantages that have hitherto retarded agricultural improvements, may be reckoned the badness of the roads, the distance from foreign manure, and especially the poverty of the greater part of the farmers to whom the land is at present let, in very small portions. Their rents are from 5 l. to 35 l.; two or three of them about 70 l.; and one only up to 100 l. Sterling. But the disadvantages under which the parish has hitherto laboured, are now in the way of being removed, or sufficiently compensated, by the extraordinary advantages arising from some new manufacturing establishments; and, in as far as their influence has hitherto extended, to improvements in agriculture, as soil has appeared very susceptible of melioration. There is abundant reason, indeed, for supposing, that a spirit for such improvements will not be difficult to excite; for, of late, many substantial inclosures have been made in different parts of the parish, and particularly on the estate of Ballindalloch, where, in addition to these, there have been several plantations of wood formed, with an equal regard to beauty and utility.

Manufactures, &c.—About the beginning of the year 1789, Robert Dunmore, Esq; of Ballindalloch, introduced a colony of cotton weavers into the parish. For these, he, at first, built a few houses, at his own expence, in the neighbourhood of the church, and let them out at a small yearly rent. This branch of manufacture was immediately carried

on to such an extent, that the value of goods manufactured, during the currency of the year 1792, amounted to the sum of 7676 l. Sterling.

In the spring of the year 1790, the public spirited exertions of Mr Dunmore having been already directed to this corner, he applied himself, with success, to procure the erection of a cotton mill in the neighbourhood of his new village; and a happy situation having been chosen on the banks of the water of Endrick, the work was carried on, through his means, with such astonishing dispatch, that, in the month of June of the same year, yarn was spun in it. This branch of manufacture, in December 1792, gave employment to 390 people. Of these, 120 were men; 90 women; 180 children, from 6 to 16 years of age.

The cotton mill, thus erected, fully answered the purpose of extending and improving the village. Mr Dunmore readily feued out ground, to the new settlers, for the site of a house and garden, most commonly to the extent of a quarter of an acre, and, at first, upon such easy terms as to afford them ample encouragement; but here, as in many other cases, well directed liberality proved good policy; for the consequent prosperity of his village, and its manufactures, soon enabled him to raise the rate of his feu-duty from 2 l. to 4 l. per acre, without retarding the progress of building, or at all distressing the people. The houses, in general, are substantial. Most of them are covered with slate; and some of them, are three stories high. The village now consists of 105 new houses, in which there are upwards of 430 rooms with fire places.

For the rapid rise, and increase of the population of this new village, we are partly indebted to a printfield and bleach-field, which Mr Dunmore, with the same patriotic views, procured to be established upon the opposite banks of the
water

water of Endrick, and in the adjoining parish of Killearn; for, although the necessary works connected with these establishments, be separated from this parish by the river, yet almost all the people belonging to them have their dwelling-houses in the village of Balfrou, and a considerable part of the grounds originally intended for carrying on the bleaching and printing operations, are on the Balfrou side of the river.

Roads.—Till within these few years, the roads of this parish, during the winter months, were almost impassible; but in this respect also, we have derived much advantage from the introduction of our manufactures, and the spirited exertions of the gentlemen who has so laudably patronized them. In this particular line of improvement, indeed, the other landed proprietors, not immediately connected with the mercantile or manufacturing interests, readily afforded him the most liberal and manly support, and thereby materially promoted both the particular interests of the manufacturing establishments, and the general good of the country; in which view Peter Spiers, Esq; of Culcreuch, a considerable heritor in this parish, ought to be particularly mentioned with honour. In consequence of these exertions, a bridge of two arches, at Ballindalloch, has been thrown over the Endrick, which, when *swelled*, is a rapid and dangerous river. A turnpike road has been made from Glasgow to the village of Balfrou, and leading from it into the military road between Stirling and Dumbarton. Another turnpike road has also been made, which, passing through the east end of this parish, leads from Kippen to Glasgow. Good cross roads are begun to be formed, and considerable progress has been made in them. Arches have been thrown over all the streams of water, and hollow places; so that there is now the certain prospect of having good roads through every part of the parish.

Population,

Population, &c.—The return to Dr Webster in 1755, amounted to 755 souls. The population of the parish has been in a fluctuating state, in so far as regards the village, since the year 1790, seldom remaining stationary for a single week. In December 1792, there were in the parish 1381 souls. Of this number the village contained 981, and of these 930 were new settlers.

Of the above number, 805 were of the Established Church, 459 Antiburgher Seceders, who have had a place of worship in the parish about 60 years, 64 Papists, 18 of the Relief Persuasion, 17 Cameronians, 9 Burgher Seceders, and 9 of the Church of England.

There were besides about 200 people, including all ages, imported to the village at Whitsunday 1793, when the printing and bleaching commenced; so that, at that period, there were in the village about 1181, and in the parish 1581 souls.

The people employed at the printfield and bleachfield, are almost wholly of the Relief and Burgher Persuasion; and, besides these already mentioned as residing in the village in December 1792, there were several families of the same persuasions who had given a temporary adherence to the Established Church; but at Whitsunday 1793 being joined, all at once, by so many of their sect, each party immediately set up a tent for themselves, and have ever since been contending, with much animosity, for the honour of making proselytes. It is not, therefore, easy to ascertain the present state of the parish, with respect to sectaries; and it is still more difficult to say what it will be a few years hence.

Till very lately, there was no regular record kept of births, deaths, and marriages. From Whitsunday 1792 to Whitsunday 1793, there were 67 births, 46 deaths, and 30 marriages.

Church and Stipend. Poor. School.—The manse and offices were built new from the foundation in 1789, and the church, which is neat, and even elegant, in 1793. The value of the stipend is from 70 l. to 80 l. Sterling, according to the rise or fall of grain, part of it being paid in meal and barley. The glebe consists of about 18 acres. The Earl of Kinnoul is patron.

The poor have hitherto been well provided for, out of the collections made at the church, dues of mortcloths, and the interest of about 100 l. Sterling of poor's money; but that they will continue to be much longer so, out of these funds, considering the great influx of inhabitants, is very doubtful. There are no vagrant poor in the parish.

The schoolmaster's salary is 100 l. Scotch, out of which he pays, annually, 2 l. Sterling for a person to teach a school in a distant part of the parish. Besides the parish dues, which are now pretty considerable, the schoolmaster has somewhat more than an acre of land, originally fued by the session for his behoof. This piece of ground was lately exchanged for an equal quantity, with much advantage to the schoolmaster, by Mr Dunmore, as it stood in the way of some of his improvements. Upon the ground Mr Dunmore gave in exchange, he built, at his own expence, a neat and commodious school room, with a lodging for the master, of 4 rooms, all under one roof.

Miscellaneous Observations.—Peat and turf, of which there are great abundance in the parish, were, previous to 1790, almost the only fuel used; but, since roads were made, coal is chiefly burnt, at least by the people in the village. It is brought from Campsie or Baldernock, the carriage being upwards of ten miles. Red and white freestone are found in great plenty. There is also lime-stone. Repeated attempts have

have been made to find coal, of which, in the opinion of good judges, there are the most flattering appearances, tho' hitherto without success. The price of labour, of all kinds, is of late advanced more than a third. In many instances, it is doubled. In the year 1787 the wages of an ordinary man servant were from 4 l. to 6 l. a-year. In 1794 they are from 8 l. to 10 l. A day labourer, in 1787, could have been hired for 7 d. or 8 d. per day; but in 1794 they require 1 s. or 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d. From the vicinity of Glasgow, and the easy access to it, the price of provisions is now, in a great measure, regulated by the Glasgow market. There is no public house in the parish, excepting in the village, where there are a tolerably good inn, and two respectable public houses. There are, besides, a great many low public houses, which deal only in whisky, and which are productive of the worst effects, both to the health and morals of the people.

NUMBER XXXVIII.

PARISH OF ELY.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE.—PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREWS.)

By Mr WILLIAM FAIRMAN, *Minister.*

Name, Situation, &c.

ELY, the modern name, ELIE or ELLIE, the old name, is so called from *A Liche*, in Gaelic, “ Out of the sea, “ or out of the water,” the town being built so near the sea, that it washes the walls in some places. The houses are preserved with great difficulty by sea dykes, notwithstanding which, the sea is yearly making great incroachments. If this derivation is a just one, and if it was built out of the sea, the sea is fast resuming what it gave.

Ely has a most pleasant, dry, and healthy situation. The shore is sandy, and shelving gradually; is remarkably well adapted for sea-bathing; and is, of late, much resorted to for that purpose. It is a mile and a half long, and about a mile broad. It is bounded by the parish of Newburn, on the west; by the parish of Kilconquhar, on the north; the parish of St Monance, on the east; and the sea, on the south. It was disjoined from the extensive parish of Kilconquhar about the year 1640.

Population.—The number of families in this parish is 151; of souls 620, which is nearly 4 to each family. The incumbent took an accurate list of the inhabitants about the year 1790, which may be relied on. The population in 1755 amounted to 642, consequently there is a decrease of 22.

The following is an abstract of Births, Burials, and Marriages, for 7 years, from October 1. 1783, being the time when the act commenced, granting to his Majesty a duty of 3 d. on each of these articles, which has since been repealed.

	<i>Births.</i>			<i>Burials.</i>			<i>Marriages.</i>
	Males.	Fem.	Total.	Males.	Fem.	Total	
From Oct. 1. 1783 to Ditto 1784	6	14	20	4	10	14	7
From 1784 to 1785	19	11	30	17	13	30	5
— 1785 to 1786	15	13	28	13	6	19	6
— 1786 to 1787	7	14	21	9	11	20	4
— 1787 to 1788	8	12	20	4	9	13	4
— 1788 to 1789	11	10	21	5	6	11	9
— 1789 to 1790	9	9	18	5	3	8	5
Total for 7 years	75	83	158	57	58	115	40
Average for each year	10 $\frac{5}{7}$	11 $\frac{6}{7}$	22 $\frac{1}{7}$	8 $\frac{1}{7}$	8 $\frac{2}{7}$	16 $\frac{1}{7}$	7 $\frac{5}{7}$

From 158, the total number of births,

Take 115, the total burials,

Rem. 43, the total increase in 7 years; which, on an average, is only one more than 6 to a year.

Proprietors, &c.—Sir John Anstruther is patron of the church, and sole proprietor of the parish, one single farm excepted,

excepted, lately purchased by Captain Christie of Balchristie.

Fisheries.—There are 8 fishermen belonging to this parish. They have houses, rent free, from Sir John Anstruther, superior of this place, on condition of their supplying the town of Ely with fish, at least three times a week. They are well situated for carrying on the fisheries, and, on the whole, are pretty successful.

Lake.—There is a beautiful lake, called Kilconquhar Loch, bounded by that parish and Ely. In it there are plenty of pikes and eels. The fishing, however, is of no great value, and will naturally be more fully described in the Statistical Account of Kilconquhar.

Poor.—The session here maintains all its poor. No beggars belong to the parish. There are about 20 regular pensioners, who receive a small sum monthly, besides others who get charity occasionally, as their wants require. The funds for their support amount to about 50 l. *per annum*.

Inclosures.—The whole parish was inclosed with ditch and hedge by Sir John Anstruther. The inclosures are kept in great order, and are very flourishing. The burgh acres, near the town, anno 1790, let at about 40 s. and the large farms at 30 s. per acre, but have since risen. Burgh acres now (anno 1795) let at between 50 s. and 60 s. the acre; and large farms between 40 s. and 50 s. Sir John Anstruther lately let a farm, of near 100 acres, at 3 l. per acre.

Fuel.—Coal is the only fuel used here. There is an excellent coalwork, belonging to Sir John Anstruther, 3 miles from

from this parish. The price of coals, independent of carriage, in 1790, was 3 s. for 75 stones, and 4 s. 4 d. for 75 stones of a better quality, but is now 4 s. for 75 stones of the first sort, and 5 s. for the other.

Wages.—Men servants wages, besides maintenance, were from 5 l. to 6 l. *per annum*, and women from 1 l. to 2 l. the half year. Day labourers got 10 d. and 1 s. per day, and carpenters 2 s. and 2 s. 6 d. Now, (anno 1795,) men servants are 7 l. and 8 l. yearly. Women 30 s. and 2 l. and no labourers are to be found under 1 s.

Harbour, &c.—There is an excellent harbour at Ely. It is the deepest in the Frith of Forth, Bruntisland excepted. It has remarkably easy access, and is perfectly safe. It is the resort of more wind-bound vessels, than any other harbour, perhaps, in Scotland. It has also been the means of saving many a ship, cargo, and seaman, that would otherwise have been driven out of the Frith; many of them being so poorly manned and provisioned, that they never would have been able to regain the coast. This useful harbour, however, is going fast to ruin. It were much to be wished, that some public spirited person would recommend it to the attention of the Chamber of Commerce, or the Convention of Royal Burghs, to obtain some aid to put it in a better state. An inconsiderable expence, in proportion to the importance and utility of the object, would completely repair it. It may be remarked, also, that the value of the shipping brought in, bears but a small proportion to that of their cargoes, which are often grain and other perishable commodities, that might suffer by being exposed to a storm, even though the ship were to weather it. There are, belonging to this place, seven square rigged vessels, carrying 1000 or 1100 tons, all employ-
ed

ed in foreign trade, and one sloop used as a coaster. Vessels, of a considerable size, are built here. There is a manufacture of check and bed tikes, and also of ropes, by the Messrs Wood.

Ecclesiastic State.—Sir John Anstruther is sole patron of the church of Ely. There are a few Seceders, Independents, and Bercans; but the great body of the people belong to the Established Church. The stipend of Ely is 80 l. old stipend, and 20 l. lately given voluntarily by Sir John Anstruther, in all 100 l. The schoolmaster's salary is 11 l. Part of the parish lies in the very heart of Kilconquhar parish, owing to this, that at the disjunction, the proprietor of Ely wished all belonging to that barony to be in the parish.

Miscellaneous Observations.—Near the town of Ely, is the cave of M'Duff, Thane of Fife, a stupendous arch, in the face of Kincairaig rocks, fronting the sea. In this place, Macduff hid and defended himself, by a fortification, against his pursuers, when he was flying from M'Beath, to the King's son, Malcolm, in England. The inhabitants of Earlsferry, (so called from Earl M'Duff,) ferried him over to North Berwick; and out of gratitude, when the King's son was restored, he got the town made a Royal Borough, which it still is, and retains all its privileges, but that of sending a member to Parliament, which privilege it lost, owing to its being unable to maintain its member, and its having petitioned to be relieved from the burden. It is in the same situation with Falkland, Newburgh, and some other towns in Scotland. Tradition says, that, among other things, Macduff obtained this privilege from the King, that, on the application of a criminal, the town is obliged to ferry him over immediately, and dare not ferry over his pursuers, till he is half way over the Frith. This, it is said, was claimed and
granted

granted in the case of Carnegie and Douglas of Finhaven. A tumulus was opened here some years ago. In it were found several bones of a remarkably large size. They were sent to the Museum of the Society of Scottish Antiquaries. Real rubies have been got on the shore, which were gradually washed from the rocks. Some of them were sent to Dr Black, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh.

To the east end of the harbour of Ely, and at a small distance from it, Wadehaven is situated; so named, it is said, from General Wade, who recommended it to government as proper for a harbour. Others call it Wadd's Haven. How it got that name, if the right one, is not known. It is very large, and has deep water, in so much that it would contain the largest Men of War, drawing from 20 to 22 feet water.

NUMBER XXXIX.

PARISH OF KILMANIVAIG.

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS.—PRESBYTERY OF ABER-
TARPH, AND SYNOD OF GLENELG.)

By Mr THOMAS ROSS, Minister.

Extent.

THE length of this parish, from south to north, is about 60 miles, and its greatest breadth 20. It is bounded by the parish of Kilmalie to the west, by Fortingal to the south east, by Laggan to the east, by Glenelg and Kintail to the north, and by Boleiskine to the north east. Its appearance is very much diversified by ranges of lofty mountains towards the extremities, intersected by extensive glens in different directions, and rapid rivers, which all discharge themselves into the river Lochy, the common reservoir, which runs into a branch of the Atlantic at Fort-William.

Climate.—From the vicinity of this parish to the western ocean, and its being surrounded by very high mountains, which attract the clouds, the climate is extremely rainy; consequently, the inhabitants, though in other respects healthy, are frequently troubled with the rheumatism.

Soil.

Soil.—Owing to the irregular surface, and vast extent of this parish, the soil is extremely various, but chiefly partakes of a light sandy nature, and sometimes of a black loam.

Agriculture.—has made little progress in this country, as the whole parish is more suited to grazing, particularly sheep-farming; another cause that may be assigned for this, is, that the wetness of the climate is an invincible bar to the raising of corn, sufficient for the subsistence of the inhabitants. The only crops are barley, oats, and potatoes; the last of which is the staple commodity. The number of sheep in this parish amounts to about 60,000, that of black cattle to 1500, and the number of horses may be computed at 500.

Population.—The number of inhabitants amounts to about 2400, of whom about 1200 are Protestants, and 1200 Roman Catholics. The return to Dr Webster in 1755, was 1400 Papists, and 1595 Protestants, total 2995. The decrease consequently is, at least, 495 souls.

Wages and Prices.—Masters of families in this country labour under difficulties in regard to servants, being obliged to give a shilling per day to the men, and a sixpence to the women. The prices of most of the commodities of life are exceedingly extravagant, oat meal in particular, which, *communibus annis*, may be rated at 18 s. only 8 stones to the boll, and feed corn at the same price. Owing to the want of a public market, the price of beef and mutton cannot be ascertained; none being nearer than that of Inverness.

Manners.—The same hospitality which characterised the ancient Caledonians, of whom they may be considered the genuine descendants, continues to be practised. Another qualification

qualification which they have derived from their ancestors, and which they possess, in a considerable degree, is courage. Civilization and industry are making daily progress; and were they set upon a proper plan, and had due encouragement, they would become as flourishing as their local situation would permit. From the well known characters of the proprietors, little doubt can be entertained that this will be the case.

Language.—The Gaelic is the language of the natives, who speak it in as great purity as in any part of the Highlands. Many of them understand the English language, and speak it with accuracy.

Church.—This parish was formerly connected with the bishoprick, and afterwards with the synod of Argyle, and presbytery of Lorn, till the year 1724, when it was dismembered from said presbytery, and united to those parishes which now compose the presbytery of Abertarph, and form a part of the synod of Glenelg. The minister's stipend is a thousand pounds Scotch, though there is still a great deal of unexhausted tithes. There is neither manse nor glebe; in place of which the heritors allow the present incumbent 20 l. Sterling yearly. There are two missionaries who are partly connected with this parish, and two Roman Catholic clergymen.

Schools.—There is one parochial school here, with a salary of 15 l. Sterling *per annum*, and other perquisites arising from baptisms and marriages, together with school-fees. There are generally from 20 to 50 scholars throughout the year. In this parish are likewise two Society schools; but, owing to

the discontiguity of its several districts, two other schools at least, of the same description, are necessary.

There are no funds for the poor, but the weekly collections.

Antiquities—One of the greatest antiquities of this parish is the old ruin of the Castle of Inverlochy. There was, at one time, a thriving borough, of the same name, adjacent to this building, which some of the old Scotch historians call the Emporium of the west of Scotland; but of this borough, there are now no other vestiges, than some paved works in different places, which were probably the streets of it. The castle has survived the burgh, and now stands alone in ancient magnificence, after having seen the river Lochy, that formerly filled its ditches, run in another course, and outlived all history, and all tradition, of its own builder and age. It is a quadrangular building, with round towers at the angles, measuring 30 yards every way within the walls. The towers and ramparts are solidly built of stone and lime, 9 feet thick at the bottom, and drawing in to the thickness of 8 feet above. As to the height of the towers, they are not so entire as to show what it was, nor are they all equally high, as it is probable they were all on a level at top and standing upon uneven ground; the western tower, which stood on the lowest foundation, is the highest of them all, and the largest every way. It does not seem to have been less than 50 feet when it was all entire; and the rest of the towers may probably have been about 40 feet in height. The rampart between them seems, in general, to be about 25, and from that to 30. The inner area seems to have been uncovered; but all the towers were, probably, roofed, by placing some cover above a joisting of beams of wood, for which there are still remaining some square openings in the walls at the top, as well

well as below that, for the floors of the first and second stories. Ten or 12 yards without the walls, the ditch begins, which surrounded the castle from 30 to 40 feet broad, and was filled with water from the river. The whole building, including the towers, covers about 1600 yards; and, within the outside of the ditch, are 7000 square yards, which is nearly an acre and a half of English measure.

At the hand gate, between the fourth and east towers, there are some remains of a building for the draw-bridge. The gate is 9 feet wide, and arched to the same height, with abutments of 14 feet at each side, to strengthen it within. There was also another gate, directly opposite to this one, of nearly the same size, which probably might answer as a water-gate, and lead into the river. Besides these two principal entries, three of the towers were provided with fally ports, one from each tower, well contrived, and close to the arrow-holes, which also flanked and defended them. To the lowest story of each tower, there is a door, leading in from the inner area of the castle, and a winding stair up to the second story through the heart of the wall. From the second story there is also a door on each side of every tower, leading up to the top of the rampart, a curtain wall between the towers. This wall had a parapet of stone, 2 feet thick, outside and inside, between which the troops might stand in security, and defend themselves with missile weapons from the top of it. The whole was evidently defended by arrows. Every tower is built with loop holes on each side of it, so contrived as to flank the whole curtain of the rampart as far as the next tower. These arrow-holes, or perpendicular flits in the walls, are well contrived to allow the archers a free aim, and defend them at the same time from any weapons without. The western tower, which is always called the *Cumming's tower*, is 42 feet diameter over walls,

walls, and 24 feet within them. In the lowest story of it we find 3 arrow holes; in the second story 4; and in the third story 8 or 9, all of them faced with free-stone, 2½ inches wide on the outside, and extending to the breadth of 7 feet within, and 6 feet high. There is a chimney in the middle story of each tower, large, and running through the wall obliquely, and also a window opening to the inner court of the building, and a door on each side, leading to the top of the adjoining walls, by means of which all the towers and ramparts could easily communicate with one another.

The middle story of each tower seems to have been allotted for the principal people to occupy, as it was furnished with a spacious window and a chimney; but the lower stories had no light, except what came in by the arrow-holes, unless the door was open which led into the inner court. The whole building, ramparts, and towers, would require from 500 to 600 men to defend it, besides reserves; but the number of troops that might occupy it cannot be exactly known, as the curtains of the ramparts, outside and inside, are perforated in many places, probably for beams of wood to form a shade, under which men or cattle might lodge in safety.

From the name of the western tower, it is probable that this castle was occupied by the Cummings in the time of Edward I. of England. when they were most powerful; and, previous to that period, by the Phanes of Lochaber, among others by the noted Bancho, predecessor of the race of Stewart. There is a tradition, that this castle was once a royal residence, and that the famous league betwixt Charles the Great of France, and Achaius King of Scots, had been signed there, on the part of the Scotch Monarch, about the last years of the 8th century. But this point can be best determined by those who have access to our ancient records.

What

What credit can we give to the constant diminution of the size of the human body, which authors are sometimes fondly telling us of, when the arrow embrasures in this old ruin, are not an inch higher, than what would render them convenient for us, even at this day?

Another antiquity, which this parish can boast, is the famous parallel roads, one of the most stupendous monuments of human industry, and which well deserve the attention of the antiquary. They are to be seen in the eastern part of this parish, on the declivities of steep and lofty mountains, which extend for 7 or 8 miles on each side of the water of Roy, in the direction of south-west and north-east, and the opening betwixt which forms the valley that goes under the name of *Glenroy*. There were originally 3 lines of these roads on each side of the glen, each corresponding in height to the one opposite to it; the lowermost, however, is in some parts effaced, particularly on the south side. They all run parallel to each other, and in an horizontal direction, humouring the windings of the mountains. Their dimensions are various; in general, they are from 60 to 70 feet in breadth; and the distance betwixt two of them has been found to be about 180. Similar roads are likewise to be seen in two of the adjacent glens, but not in such perfection.

As there is nothing left upon record respecting the time when, the persons by whom, or the purposes for which these roads were constructed, we can only mention the common traditions concerning them. One is, that they were made by the Kings of Scotland, when the royal residence was in the castle of Inverlochy, which is not above 11 miles from the nearest of them; and, what gives an appearance of truth to this tradition, in the opinion of those who maintain it, is, that the construction of these roads was so vast an undertaking, as could not be effected by any vassal or nobleman, however

however powerful. Another tradition, which is that of the natives, is, that they were made by the Fingalians; and, under the name of *Fingalian roads* *, they are still known in this country. Of this the natives are convinced, from this circumstance, that several of the hills of this glen have retained, from time immemorial, the names of some of the heroes of Fingal; such as, the hill of Gaul, the son of Morni; that of Diarmid, and of Tillan; and likewise of Bran, the famous dog of Fingal, &c. Now, the popular belief cannot be considered as a direct proof of any opinion, yet we cannot help remarking, that the original tradition (which, in this case, has been always invariable) gives a strong degree of credibility to the existence of such heroes, and renders it by no means improbable that these extraordinary roads have been the result of their labours. The purpose which they were designed to serve, seems to have been (agreeably to the common opinion) to facilitate the exercise of hunting; for, in ancient times, and indeed till within this century, the valley was covered with wood, which made it very difficult to pursue the deer, &c. and rendered certain avenues necessary for effecting this purpose; in corroboration of which opinion, it may be observed, that upon the sides of the roads, there have been found some stakes fixed in the ground, probably the remains of the palings or fences, which in those days were made use of to confine the game, till they were driven in upon a field, called *Dal-na-fealg*, or hunting dale, where, the presumption is, they were killed.

* They are likewise called the *Casan*, i. e. *the roads*, by way of eminence. They prove that Sir Alexander Murray of Stanhope's celebrated plan for parallel canals, even in mountainous countries, is not impracticable.

NUMBER XL.

PARISH OF AUGHTERGAVEN.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.—SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.—PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD.)

By Mr WILLIAM CHALMERS, Minister.

Name, Extent, &c.

THE parish of Aughtergaven is situated in the shire of Perth, within the bounds of the synod of Perth and Stirling, and the presbytery of Dunkeld. It is nine miles in length from east to west, and about five miles in breadth from north to south. Its general surface measures above 12,000 acres Scotch; but a great proportion of this consists of hills and muirs, or waste uncultivated ground. A small neighbouring parish, called Logiebride, had formerly been annexed to Aughtergaven. No accounts can be had of the particular time when this annexation took place, from tradition, or from the records of presbytery, in which the parish is always named Oughter, or Aughtergaven*. The people residing in the districts that belonged to Logiebride parish continue to bury in the churchyard at Logiebride. A part of the church is yet standing, and is used as a burying-ground by the family of Tullybelton. It is distant two English miles from Aughtergaven church. Above 50 years ago,

* Aughtergaven is a word of Celtic original. In Gaelic it is written Uachdarghamh-thir; and is said to signify the upper part of the winter land.

ago, the ministers of Aughtergaven occasionally preached at Logiebride, but none of the parishioners remember of any minister residing there. The barony of Tullybeagles is included in this Statistical Account. It is within the bounds of the parish of Methven; but, from its proximity to Aughtergaven, the people residing in it have, for a long time, been accustomed to attend public worship at Aughtergaven church, and to receive church benefits from the ministers of that parish.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church of Aughtergaven is situated upon the slope of a rising ground, half an English mile eastward from the manse, and adjoining to the public road from Perth to Dunkeld. It is distant from Perth 8 miles and an half, and 6 miles and an half from Dunkeld. Like many old churches, it is of the form of a cross, and its length disproportioned to its breadth. At present, it is in very bad repair.

The manse was built in the year 1745, and has since been frequently repaired.

The stipend, lately augmented, is now, in money, 72 l. 19 s. 8 d. Sterling, with 5 l. for communion elements, and victual 41 bolls 3 pecks, 2 pecks meal, and 10 bolls bear.

The glebe consists of 4½ acres of ground. There is another glebe at Logiebride of much the same extent. The King is patron.

School.—The schoolmaster's salary is 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling. His salary as session-clerk is 2 l. Sterling; and he receives, of kirk-dues, about 2 l. Sterling yearly. The school-fees are, *per* quarter, 1 s. 6. d. for reading, 2 s. for writing and arithmetic, and for Latin, 2 s. 6 d. Sterling.

State of the Poor, and their Funds.—The poor are not numerous here, and are remarkably well provided for. The funds for their support arise from collections in the church, money for mortcloths, dues on marriages and baptisms, the rent of two lofts in the church, and the rent of a few acres of land belonging to the poor. The whole amounts to about 26 l. Sterling *per annum*. Out of this income, there is a distribution made, of supply to the poor, by the kirk-session, every month. There are generally 6 or 8 paupers upon the list, who receive from 5 s. to 10 s. per month, according to their necessities. At an annual meeting of the kirk-session, held in November, a few pounds are distributed in small portions, for buying clothes, coals, or other necessaries, to any poor people of the parish who chuse to apply for this assistance, and who are known to stand in need of it.

Population.—The present number of persons in this parish is 1784
The return to Dr Webster, in the year 1755, was 1677

Increase from the year 1755 to the year 1795 107

The following table shews the number of births, deaths, and marriages, entered in the parish-register for 10 years preceeding the year 1795.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Births.</i>		<i>Total.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>			
1784.	18	14	32	28	19
1785	24	16	40	12	16
1786	24	15	39	24	8
1787	21	27	48	27	4
1788	20	22	42	33	7
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Years.	Births.		Total.	Deaths.	Marriages.
	Males.	Females.			
1789	14	19	33	17	9
1790	24	26	50	21	7
1791	20	16	36	18	6
1792	16	26	42	19	8
1793	18	24	42	21	9
1794	20	26	46	18	7

Occupations.

Farmers	-	-	-	40
Masons	-	-	-	10
Wrights	-	-	-	20
Turners	-	-	-	4
Coopers	-	-	-	2
Millars	-	-	-	4
Weavers	-	-	-	182
Shoemakers	-	-	-	14
Tailors	-	-	-	10
Cotton-spinners	-	-	30 or 40	
Hat-dressers	-	-	-	6
Slaters	-	-	-	3
Day-labourers	-	-	-	30
Distillers	-	-	-	8
Vintners	-	-	-	3
Baker	-	-	-	1
Butcher	-	-	-	1

There are, in this parish, 914 males, 870 females; 370 families, or householders, including cottar's widows, &c. Of these families 280 are members of the Established Church, 80 are Seceders, 10 are of the Relief Congregation.

Heritors.

Heritors.—His Grace the Duke of Atholl, the Earl of Mansfield, George Stewart, Esq; of Grandtully, and Robert Robertson, Esq; of Tullybelton, are the heritors of this parish.

The barony of Tullybeagles included, as before mentioned in this Statistical Account, belongs to the family of Aldie. The valued rent of the parish is about 5,000 l. Scotch money. None of the heritors reside at present in the parish.

Improvements in Agriculture, &c.—The progress of improvements in agriculture, in the manufactures, roads, and buildings here, has been so rapid within these ten years past, that the country has assumed quite a different aspect from what it had before that time. Though good crops of oats, barley, and flax, were long ago raised upon particular spots of ground, yet, till the year 1784, or 1785, there were not above three or four farms upon a regular plan, and very few neat farm steadings in the parish. The public road from Perth to Dunkeld passed through a large plantation of Scotch firs, and then along a track of bleak, wet, muir ground, which tended to impress travellers with a very unfavourable opinion of the adjacent country.

At present, there are from 20 to 30 regular farms, from 80 to 200 acres each; and, upon all of them, neat elegant houses and offices covered with slate. The farmers find it their interest to adopt, in the management of their ground, the method recommended by the proprietors, of summer fallowing, and mixing, alternately, white and green crops. Till lately, a field of wheat was seldom to be seen here, now, several of the farmers sow from 10 to 20 bolls of wheat yearly, and have excellent crops. To encourage them in raising this useful grain, the Duke of Atholl has erected a flour mill upon his estate in this parish.

A

A turnpike road from Perth to Dunkeld is now completed. In entering the parish, it takes a different direction from the old roads, and is conducted through the cultivated ground. Most of the new built houses and farm steads were designedly situated near it, or within view of it, which is not only extremely convenient for the farmers but also tends to decorate and enliven the appearance of the country.

In the year 1784, Mr Dempster of Dunnichen, Mr Graham of Fintray, along with several gentlemen in the mercantile line in Perth, leased some ground at Stanley from the Duke of Atholl, built a mill for spinning cotton, and soon after began to erect a village in its neighbourhood, upon a regular plan, for accommodating the people to be employed in this manufactory. At that time, only a few families dwelt near Stanley; and, except the land within the inclosures around Stanley House *, most part of it, thereabout, was almost in a state of nature. His Grace the Duke of Atholl took under his own management 250 acres of this land, inclosed it, built upon it an elegant farm stead; and, within the course of a few years, improved it so highly, that not long ago, this farm was let at the rate of 1 l. 5 s. per acre.

Near an hundred families now reside in the village at Stanley. Above 350 persons are employed about the cotton mill,—of this number 300 are women or children under 16 years of age. The boys and girls, though confined at work in the mill for many hours of the day, and, at times, during the night, are, in general, very healthy.

Miscellaneous

* Stanley House is beautifully situated upon the banks of the river Tay, in the eastern part of this parish. It was built by the late Lord Nairn. The family of Nairn had another elegant house near Loak, the ruins of which are yet to be seen. Their place of interment is in the south aisle of Aughtergaven church.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There is still ample room for farther improvements in this parish. Large tracts of ground, where the soil is tolerably good, remain unimproved. The roads leading across the country, from the public roads, are excessively bad, and, in winter, almost impassible. Ditches for draining the low wet lands, hedges, hedge-rows of trees, and clumps of planting, for affording shelter, are much wanted.

Many of the tenants, who have only small possessions, are yet poorly accommodated as to lodging. This is partly their own fault; for, they certainly might, with a good deal of trouble, but without much expence, render their little habitations much more comfortable than they generally are. Numbers of them live together in small villages, in smoaky damp houses, built of turf and stone, and thatched with straw or heath. The diseases most prevalent among them are rheumatism, deafness, and epidemic fevers.

There are several mosses in the parish. From these the people are plentifully supplied with fuel. Of late, most of the farmers, instead of peat and turf, use coals, which they bring from Perth, and sometimes from the coal pits near Kinross. They find it more profitable to employ their servants and horses in fallowing and improving their land, than in digging and driving peats during the summer.

Lime was first applied to the ground as a manure here about 30 years ago; but it was long after that time before it came to be generally used by the tenants.

Marl has been found in different places of the parish. A considerable quantity of it was lately dug out of a small meadow upon the Duke of Atholl's estate, and sold at a very moderate price. One of Lord Mansfield's tenants, who, by his activity and industry, has greatly forwarded some of the improvements here, extracted, at different times, some hundred

dred bolls of excellent marl from an extensive meadow upon his farm.

A stratum of marl was also discovered, not long ago, in a hollow piece of ground, upon Mr Stewart of Grandtully's estate, but it is buried under a great depth of moss.

Mr Robertson of Tullybelton had the merit of introducing into this parish the new method of farming by summer fallowing, by a regular rotation of white and green crops, and sowing grass seeds.

Except one or two Druidical circles of large stones standing on end, similar to those that are to be seen in many other parts of Scotland, there are no antiquities here worth mentioning.

NUM.

NUMBER XLI.

PARISH OF MOCHRUM.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON.—SYNOD OF
GALLOWAY.)

By the Rev. JOHN STEVEN.

Name, Extent, &c.

CONCERNING the derivation of the name of this parish, no certain information has been obtained. It is situated in the county and presbytery of Wigton, and synod of Galloway. Its greatest length, from east to west, being about 10 miles, and its greatest breadth between 4 and 5 miles. It is bounded on the south by the Bay of Luce, on the west by the parish of Old Luce, on the north by those of Kirkowan and Kirkinner, and the east by Glafferton.

Surface, Soil, and Climate.—The general appearance of the surface cannot be denominated either level or mountainous; it is partly both. The flats, however, are not extensive, nor are the hills of great elevation; but, being intermixed with each other, at moderate distances, they exhibit a variety of prospect not unpleasing to the traveller, nor unprofitable to the owner. From the eastern boundary, along the Bay of Luce, for several miles, the soil, with a few exceptions, is excellent, being mostly of a fine light, and in some places, a strong deep loam. Approaching towards the centre of the parish,

parish, it becomes gradually more thin and stony, while a large extent, on the east and west sides, mostly consisting of rocky eminences, or mossy swamps and lakes, exhibits a bleak and barren prospect, and is chiefly used for pasture. There are, however, scattered up and down in this bleak region, some small pieces of good dry arable land. Owing, perhaps, to the general dryness of the soil, the openness of the country, and its fine exposure to the sea air, the climate is remarkably healthful. Fevers, or other violent diseases, are not frequent, and are seldom mortal. The sad ravage occasioned by the small pox is now much abated, by the prevailing practice of inoculation. The prejudices entertained by vulgar minds against this salutary expedient, though not totally extirpated, are gradually yielding to the advice and example of the better informed.

Many of the inhabitants attain to old age, in the enjoyment of good health and vigour. A woman died lately, who had completed her 105th year; and, excepting a little dulness of hearing, retained the use of her senses and faculties unimpaired to the last.

Sea Coast.—A flat smooth gravel beach, mostly about 50 yards wide, runs along from the eastern, till within a mile of the western extremity of the parish, where it is intercepted by a steep rocky hill projecting into the sea, and forming a bold inaccessible shore. On this beach, the road which opens the communication between what are called the Makers and Reins of Galloway, which formerly was almost impassible for carriages, has, of late, been completely repaired, and carried along the brink of the foresaid hill, close by the sea, in a direction now wonderfully level indeed; for, to effectuate this, such deep caves were to fill up, and such immense rocks to remove,

remove, as, not many years ago, would have been thought utterly impossible.

Parallel to the beach, the land, rising suddenly, forms a steep bank or precipice, which renders the access from the shore into the country, in many places, rather difficult. Though there are various little bays, or creeks, where small boats can land, there is only one place called Portwilliam that deserves the name of a harbour.

This port, though but small, is commodious and safe, being well sheltered by the land on the east, north, and west sides; and if a strong wall or rampart, which has some time since been begun to defend the south, was completed, it would afford a secure harbour to a number of vessels, of at least 200 tons burden.

Few things, it is believed, would be more advantageous to Mochrum, than the reparation of this port, because, being the only one convenient for, or belonging to the parish, at it all exports and imports must be made. A little to the eastward of this, indeed, there is a small natural basin, called the Rue of Doury; but here the access is difficult, the water shallow, and the anchorage insecure, except in particular winds. At Portwilliam stands a neat small village of the same name, which was founded by Sir William Maxwell of Monrieth, about 20 years ago, in honour of whom it is named. It consists mostly of one row of low houses, well built, covered with slate, and fronting to the sea.

The inhabitants of every description are about 210. In 1788 a small barrack-house was erected here for the accommodation of the military, and custom-house officers occasionally sent to prevent the landing of smuggled goods. This measure seems to have been attended with complete success, as neither box, anker, nor bale, though not-unfrequent before, are now to be seen. The Bay of Luce every

where, but especially near Portwilliam, abounds with variety of excellent fish, as salmon, herring, mackerel, cod, cyth, whiting, and others. Very few of the two first, but considerable quantities of all the rest are sometimes caught; and there is every reason to believe, that if this fishing was pursued with more industry and skill, it would abundantly reward the undertaking. To this, however, it must be allowed, that the general scarcity and high price of salt, is a very great discouragement. At present, the fishermen never attempt (what their circumstances indeed cannot afford) to cure, or salt the fish, excepting a few for the use of their own families. The rest are sold as they are caught, at a shilling the stone. The price of salt is commonly 1 s. 6 d. a stone, and often not to be had at all. In the course of every 4 or 5 years, the kelp shore here, as it is called, is let by Sir William Maxwell the proprietor of it, for about 100 pounds; when a proportionable quantity of that article is manufactured, carried to the English market, and usually sold at 5 l. a ton.

Population.—There is, perhaps, no country parish in the county that has increased so much in population as Mochrum for these last 20 years. The inhabitants, who now amount to 1400, it is certain, did not exceed half the number previous to that period. This increase has been almost entirely effected on Sir William Maxwell's estate, who, carrying on extensive plans of improvement upon the lands which he held in his own natural possession, had occasion to employ a number of additional labourers, and these happening to consist mostly of young, stout, newly married Irishmen, this prolific race soon contributed largely to the human stock.

Of the lands which he had occasion to let, the worthy proprietor, too, very judiciously divided several large farms into a number of small ones, and thereby put it in the power of
many

many industrious persons to become farmers, by obtaining possessions adapted to their circumstances.

Nor can it be denied, that the illicit trade, for which this place was, till of late, so noted, however reprehensible in itself, and generally hurtful, has contributed considerably, both to the increase of population, and the improvement of agriculture here.

The principal conductors of that business being chiefly men who had been bred to farming, in some of the best cultivated parts of Ayrshire, were not ill qualified to give useful lessons on that subject to the natives of Mochrum. On their settlement here, having great command of men, houses, and money, the lands which they took in lease they improved with a degree of rapidity, and of success, unknown before in this part of the country.

To see, in the course of two or three years, a number of excellent farm houses and offices erected, where only a few miserable huts stood before, these fields, which resembled a healthy common neatly inclosed, subdivided, and covered with luxuriant crops of grown clover and rye-grass, was a sight not only new and strange to the farmers of Mochrum, but also to those of Galloway in general. Every person talked of, and admired the great and sudden improvements of the Clone Company; for so were the smugglers denominated.

The good effects of such an example in the parish were soon apparent. Raised, by a sense of shame, for past ignorance and neglect, and encouraged by the prospect of future gain, almost every farmer, who had either money, or length of lease, began to do something towards meliorating his possession.

Here, it may not be deemed impertinent to remark, that in this, as in most other districts of Galloway, the great bars

to

to further improvement would seem to be, the *short leases* and large farms.

Very few proprietors let their lands for more than 19 years, and these frequently in quantities of from 500 to 1000 Scotch acres, without fence or culture.

With such a lease, it is pretty evident, that a poor farmer can do little to purpose, and that a rich one will not. The farmer, in vain, attempts to accomplish, perhaps with a hundred pounds or two, what would require as many thousands, and the latter soon becomes tired of laying out his money, where both principal and interest shall so soon be lost, and prudently contents himself with such slight and temporary meliorations as may best correspond to the *short time* which he is to enjoy them. Were the lands, and particularly those that are unimproved, divided into 80 or 100 acres, more or less, according to the circumstances and spirit of the farmer, and let for 25 or 30 years, there is reason to believe, that a great and happy change would soon be wrought on the face of this country.

Sir William Maxwell, indeed, as already observed, has let a part of his large estate in small pieces, and the Earl of Galloway, who is also a proprietor here, is, of late, in use of granting leases for 21 years, and the tenant's lifetime. It would, therefore, only be necessary to unite the plans of the knight and the peer: Like two equal sections of the same subject, they would form an efficient and harmonious whole.

That leases, during life, will be productive of better effects than any ordinary determined space of time, is highly probable, when it is considered how naturally, and how fondly, almost every person indulges the hope of attaining to old age.

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The simple undefining peasant put thus in possession, sits not down to study tables of calculation, on the probabilities of life, the security or the danger that are supposed to attach to its successive periods, but felicitates himself with his own adage, which he understands far better; that while a "set day soon comes," he shall remain unaffected by any such events, and continue to enjoy, undisturbed, the fruits of his labours to the end of a long life.

Manures and Tillage.—The arable and pasture lands of the parish, it is presumed, may be nearly of equal extent; and there is not much natural meadow ground. The lands are let from 10 s. to 30 s. an acre, and no balliework or services are demanded. For many years past, considerable quantities of fine clay-marl have been dug in Sir William Maxwell's lands, 50 single horse cart-loads of which being laid on the acre, produced abundant crops of grain and grass. This valuable treasure appears now to be nearly exhausted, or is become so deep and difficult to work as to exceed the expence of lime.

All the lime used here, which may be about 12,000 Carlisle bushels annually, is imported burnt from Whithaven, at 1 s. 2 d. or 1 s. 3 d. a bushel, of which 45, 50, 60, or more are put on the acre, according to the ability of the farmer, or the quality of the soil. Shell sand is also brought hither, in small vessels, from the ferry town of Cree, at 2 s. 6 d. a ton, and of these 20 are usually given to an acre, but this is only used upon lands situated near the shore, its great weight rendering it too expensive to be carried far into the country. After the land has received one or other of these manures, or rather the stimulants, it is commonly plowed and sown with oats for 2 years successively, at the rate of 7 or 8 Winchester bushels to the acre, and 5 or 6 seeds are the usual

usual increase. The 3d year, every good farmer allows to each acre about 50 cart loads of dung, or sea-weed, sows on it 4 or 5 bushels of bear, with 2 of rye-grass, and 12 or 14 lbs. of red and white clover.

The ordinary produce of bear, upon land so treated, is from 10 to 14 seeds. The 4th year concludes the process with a hay crop, the acre commonly yielding between 200 and 300 stones. The land is then turned into pasture, for 6 years at least; and, when opened again, is generally dunged on the first plowing, and the same order of cropping observed as before. The oats, when properly cleaned, weigh about 38 lbs. and the bear 48 lbs. a bushel.

Of the former, Mochrum annually exports about 6,000, and of the latter 10,800 bushels.—The oats at 1 s. 10 d. and the bear at 2 s. 9 d.

This grain is chiefly carried to the markets of Liverpool and Whithaven, and sometimes a little of it is taken to Gretnock. Some two-rowed barley and wheat are raised; but of these the quantities are so small, as scarcely to deserve notice. It is a common observation here, that Galloway is not a wheat country, which is certainly true; but owing, perhaps, more to this than any other cause, that it is very little attended to, or sown.

The harvest usually begins about the middle of August, and is finished about the end of September.

Fallowing the soil is too seldom practised, and turnips are so rare a sight, that no sooner do they make their appearance in a field, than the neighbouring boys set upon them, like apples in an orchard, and eat or carry them away.

Servants' wages.—The ordinary wages given to a man servant are from 4 l. to 5 l. in the half year, the term for which they are all engaged, and to a woman servant from 30 s. to 2 l.

2 l. for the same period. Every considerable farmer keeps also at least one cottar or yearly man with his family, to whom he gives a house and yard, meal and potatoes, or other emoluments, to the amount of 15 l. or 20 l. Of this last description, the greater part are Irishmen, escaped from their country and their loom, and are commonly good hands with a spade or flail, but not dexterous in the management of horses at the cart, or the plough!

The horses, of which there are about 280 in the parish, are mostly all of the draught kind, or are used for that purpose, and are partly bred here, and partly imported from Ireland. About 15 and 16 hands is their usual height, and as many pounds their price. Unless in very stiff, or uncultivated lands, seldom more than two are put to a plough, and never more than one to a cart. The use of *tracers*, as they are called, still so prevalent in many parts of Galloway, is totally exploded in Mochrum, because, it is believed, that two horses, put each to a cart, will do at least one third more work, and with greater ease, than when yoked together in one. It is worthy of notice, that 20 years ago, there was only one cart in the parish belonging to a tenant, whereas there are now 170 of that description.

The Scotch plough, improved, or the chain one, are chiefly used. The latter is preferred where the land is not stony, being easier drawn. The ploughman always drives the horses for himself, when not more than two, and sometimes even three, when yoked abreast. The farmers begin to plow in November, and finish by the end of February, when the seeds are sown, which are commonly all in the ground in the course of five weeks after, if the season has been favourable.

The horses are generally fed with straw, and two feeds of oats a-day, when they plow; and with rye-grass, and three feeds, when they harrow the ground.

Black Cattle.—The black cattle are not large, but very handsome, as those bred in Galloway in general are. The whole number in the parish may be about 1500. Every farmer rears as many as he can, and no more thinks of fattening and killing a calf, than would an ancient inhabitant of Egypt.

The cattle are usually sold, at two years of age, for 5 l. a-head, to graziers or jobbers, and are mostly all, sooner or later, driven to the English markets.

As the chief quality regarded in a cow is to be a good breeder, so no great attention is paid to milk, or manufacturing of it into butter and cheese; yet of these articles enough are made for the use of the inhabitants.

Some of the farmers, however, from a laudable desire of improving in this respect, have more than once introduced here the famous cows of Kyle. But, whether it was owing to a difference of pasture, of hard feeding, or of both, these were soon found to milk no better than the native breed; and, being less esteemed in other respects, especially on account of their being horned, very few of them are now to be seen. When the cows get old, they are sold lean for between 3 l. and 4 l. except what are retained for the use of the parishioners; and these, when fatted, commonly weigh from 25 to 30 stones.

Sheep.—This parish has long been famous for excellent wool, on account of its still retaining some of the ancient breed of the Galloway sheep. Of these sheep, the most distinguishing marks are, orange coloured face and legs, short thick wool, and very small size. When at full growth, and tolerably fat, the wether would not exceed 30, nor the ewe 27 lib.; and it would require 18 or 20 of their fleeces to make a stone of 26½ lib.

Very

Very few, however, of this truly primitive breed, it is supposed, now remain; they have been either picked out, and sold off in quantities to those who were pursuing improvements in wool, or contaminated with the various other kinds of sheep in the neighbourhood.

But, though thus evidently degenerating, the Mochrum wool (quantity and quality) is still esteemed the best in the county, and is generally sold from 12s. to 14s. a stone, when it is carried to the manufactories of Kilmarnock and Glasgow.

A few years ago, Lord Daer and Admiral Stewart purchased here some of the native ewes, in order to try a breed between them and Spanish, Shetland, and other rams; but both these public spirited noblemen were unfortunately cut off by death, while engaged in this and many other patriotic experiments for the improvement of their country.

The number of sheep is considerably diminished since the late improvements here. The whole stock, at present, is not more than 5000. Being very hurtful to young thorn hedges, they are, with great propriety, forbidden to be kept wherever the fields are inclosed with these. As they are, therefore, mostly banished to the moor-lands, they are neither large nor fat; but, when brought from thence, and fed on good pasture for a year, they improve greatly, and are accounted the very best of mutton. On their ordinary soil, the wethers are sold, when 4 years of age, at 10s. a head, and are mostly driven to Ayr or Glasgow; and the ewes, as they become old, are killed for home consumption.

Swine.—Almost every farmer keeps 2 or 3 pigs, and every householder one; so that there is an abundance, if not an over abundance, of these animals. They are chiefly fed on potatoes and the offal of the kitchen, and sold to English butchers, when a year old, at 30s. and 40s.

Curigsties.—Near by the church, which is situated about a mile right into the parish from Portwilliam, there is a pretty large earthen mound, quite entire, with a deep ditch or *foss* round it.

On the eastern extremity of the sea coast, at the summit of a steep bank, there are very distinct remains of an Anglo-Saxon camp. And, within two miles of the western extremity, also hard by the shore, stand the ruins of a small manse and church, called *St Finian's Chapel*, probably from the famous Saint of that name.

In the middle of the moor-land appears an old tower or castle, whose walls are very strong, and almost entire; and, being nearly surrounded by lakes, when viewed at a distance it has a most curious and picturesque appearance, resembling much a large ship at sea.

It is called *the old Place of Mochrum*; and formerly belonged, together with a considerable estate contiguous to it, to an ancient family, of the name of *Dunbar*, who resided in it, were created Knights of Mochrum about a century ago, and still enjoy that title. But the castle and the property have now, for upwards of 60 years, been in possession of the Earl of Dumfries.

Plantations.—On these lands the noble Earl has lately begun to plant, in convenient places, considerable clumps of trees, which being at a good distance, and well sheltered from the sea, there is reason to hope they may do well; a circumstance much to be wished, as they would be both highly ornamental and useful in that part of the parish.

In Mochrum, or in no other part of Galloway, situated near, and exposed to the western ocean, do trees of any kind seem to thrive. Owing to this cause alone, Sir William Maxwell's extensive plantations, which have had every other advantage

advantage that either art or nature could bestow, have made little progress, except in low situations, and not in sight of the sea. Wherever old Neptune gets but a peep at them, they soon begin to sicken and to fade.

The lakes above mentioned, and several others in the parish, are stored with perch and trout, pike and eel, of which considerable quantities are caught at the proper seasons.

There are no rivers, but plenty of burns and small rivulets, as also of excellent springs, in Mochrum.

There are two corn mills, the one a very good, and the other a very bad one; and, as the farmers are not, in general, thirled to either, they are at no loss which to prefer.

No manufactures have yet found their way here; but Sir William Maxwell has been proposing to have one erected on some of his fine situations. The present number of mechanics, of every description, is about 20.

Poor.—The list of the poor seldom exceeds 8 or 10, who are supported by begging through the parish, and by the Sundays collections at church, which annually amount to about 20*l*.

The parish, however, is continually infested with foreign beggars, and especially the Irish, who come over here in great numbers, as they say, "to visit their friends;" a duty to which, it must be allowed, they are exceedingly attentive.

There is only one residing sectary in the parish, who goes under the name of Antiburgher.

Schools.—A very neat school-house was erected at the church 3 years ago, where 70 or 80 scholars usually attend, and are taught reading English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, mathematics, French, and Latin, by a very well qualified teacher, who has lately been procured. The quarters
terly

early wages are from 2s. to 4s. according to what the youth are learning.

The present salary is very small; but there is every hope that the good heritors, who have been so extremely indulgent to the parishioners in other respects, will soon augment it to something that may be adequate to the support of so useful a member of this society.

Gentlemen's Seats.—Of these there are none worthy of notice excepting Sir William Maxwell's, which is a very elegant and commodious edifice, only finished about two years ago. It is situated on a gently rising ground, near the eastern boundary of the parish, and a short mile from the sea. It has in front, at a small distance, a beautiful lake of clear water, surrounded by a belt of thriving young planting; as also the old family castle, rearing its head amidst a clump of lofty trees; while the opposite side commands a most extensive and delightful view of the Bay of Luce, the Mull of Galloway, the Rock of Biggar, the Isle of Man, and even the mountains of Cumberland and Morn, when the weather is clear.

Rental and Proprietors.—The gross rental of the parish is about 5000l.

Sir William Maxwell is by far the largest proprietor, his estate being nearly about one-third of the extent, and two-thirds of the value, of the whole surface.

Next to him follow the Earls of Dumfries, Galloway, and Selkirk, and a few private gentlemen.

Church—The manse and offices are very good, being all of late substantially rebuilt, and covered with slate; and an excellent new church was completed about 4 months ago.

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The stipend, which is paid a part in money, and a part in victual, was augmented last year from about 75 l. to 100 l.; and the glebe, though rather of small size, is of good quality.

The present incumbent was ordained in 1787, and has a wife and children.

NUM.

NUMBER XLII.

UNITED PARISHES OF WHITEKIRK
AND TYNNINGHAME.(COUNTY OF EAST LoTHIAN.—PRESBYTERY OF DUN-
BAR.—SYNOD OF LoTHIAN AND TWEEDALE.)*By Mr JAMES WILLIAMSON, junior of Whitekirk.**Situation, Extent, Air, Soil, &c.*

THESE parishes (which were united anno 1761) extend nearly 6 miles from south to north, and 4 from east to west. They are bounded by the parish of Dunbar on the south-east, by Preston on the south and south-west, by North Berwick on the west and north-west, and on the north and east by the Frith of Forth. The general appearance of the parish is flat. Behind the village of Whitekirk there is a hill, rather remarkable for the beautiful prospect it affords of the Frith of Forth, and country adjacent, than for its height. The climate is dry, pleasant, and healthful. The inhabitants are much less subject to agues now than formerly. The soil varies in different parts of the parish; in general, it consists of rich gravelly loams, highly favourable to the most improved mode of agriculture.

River.—The river Tyne runs for about two miles through the southern part of the parish: It rises in the moor of Middleton; and, after a north-east course of nearly 30 miles, it discharges

discharges itself into the Frith of Forth in the east part of this parish. The fish found in the Tyne are trout and gilses, neither of which are remarkably plenty. A few salmon are sometimes found, but they are very rare. The right of fishing the Tyne up to the Knowmill, and the sea coast at its mouth, from within a cable's length of Westbarns burn to the water of Peffer, an extent of nearly two miles, belongs solely to the Earl of Haddington. A great number of seals are always to be seen swimming about the mouth of the river, which are thought with probability to be one cause of the scarcity of other fish. The tide flows about two miles up the water, and might be made navigable to that height at no great expence.

Agriculture, Wages, &c.—This parish, in general, is in the highest state of cultivation. The turnip-husbandry is now carried on to a great extent. About 100 score of sheep are annually fed on turnip, and all fed in flakes upon the ground. The sheep generally fed are Highland wedders, which are bought in October for about 12 s. or 15 s. and fold again, from February to May, at from 20 s. to 25 s. per head, and will then weigh from 12 to 16 pounds a quarter. The number of sheep fed on grass, during the summer, will be about 50 score. There is also a considerable number of black cattle fed annually both on turnip and grass. Few sheep or oxen are reared in the parish, but the most of the farmers breed their own cows and horses. The kinds of grain commonly raised are, wheat, barley, oats, beans, and pease. There is also a great quantity of turnip and sown grass raised annually, and potatoes sufficient to supply the parish. Each farmer raises a few acres of flax for his own family and servants. The usual and most approved rotation on those lands which are adapted for turnip-husbandry, is,
1st,

1st, Turnip; 2d, Early oats or barley, but oats preferred; 3d, Clover one year, pastured or cut; 4th, Wheat, dunged off the clover. Lime used once in 19 or 21 years. Upon strong clay soils the usual rotation is, 1st, Fallow, dunged; 2d, Wheat or barley; 3d, Clover or beans, alternately; 4th, Oats or wheat. The number of acres in the parish is considerably above 5000, of which about 3000 are in tillage. There are 16 farms, which vary in size, from about 100 to 380 acres. The rent of farms is much increased within these few years, some of them having tripled their former rent. The lands are generally inclosed; and the farmers are perfectly convinced of the very great advantage of inclosures. The price of labour has also been increasing for these some years past. A ploughman's wages are from 7l. to 8l. 10s. a year, a day-labourer's from 14 d. to 15 d. per day. Shearers wages may be about 1s. a day, but they are also increasing. Women servants wages are from 3l. to 3l. 10s. yearly.

Woods.—When Thomas, Sixth Earl of Haddington, came to reside at Tynninghame, anno 1700, there were not above 14 acres of planting upon the estate, it being supposed that no trees could grow because of the sea air and north-east winds. This Earl, at first, either believed the common opinion, or had no turn for planting; but his Lady, being an active woman, began; and, when her success was observed, the Earl entered keenly into her plans. In 1707, the inclosing and planting of the moor of Tynninghame were begun, to which they at that time gave the name of *Binning Wood*. Prior to that period, it was common to some of his Lordship's tenants and a neighbouring gentleman, excepting a small part of it, for which one of the tenants paid a trifling rent. After the planting of *Binning Wood*, his Lordship inclosed

inclosed and divided his fields with stripes of planting of 40, 50, and 60 feet broad. The East Links, which are situated close upon the sea-beach, were at that time a dead and barren sand, with scarcely any grass upon them, and of no use but as a rabbit-warren. A gentleman from Hamburgh, happening to be at Tynninghame, mentioned to Lady Haddington that he had often seen trees growing on such a soil; this hint was taken, and the links planted; at that time, all who saw them thought the expence of trees and labour thrown away; but, contrary to their expectations, they thrive as well as on the best grounds. The trees planted in the links are the Scotch fir; in Binning wood there is a great variety, viz. oak, ash, beech, elm, plain, fir, willows, and several others; the thinnings of which have, for many years past, yielded a considerable income, often above 500 l. a-year; and, besides the advantage that is derived from the shelter which the plantations afford, the grass in the woods is much more valuable than it would have been, if allowed to remain in its original state. Binning wood consists of about 300 acres; the plantations upon the estate have, at different times, been extended, and there are now above 800 acres of ground planted at Tynninghame. In the united parishes, altogether, there will be above a thousand.

Population.—As the schoolmaster's house was unfortunately burnt in the 1760, the session registers of the parish of Whitekirk were destroyed at the same time, which renders it impossible to give any account of the births and marriages in this parish prior to that period. In the parish of Tynninghame, which at that time was not united to Whitekirk, the average of births for 10 years following 1700 was $23\frac{1}{2}$, and of marriages 6, the average for 10 years following 1750 was of births $17\frac{1}{2}$, of marriages 3.

Baptisms and Marriages in the united parishes, for 10 years preceding 1794.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Baptisms.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>
1784	23	11
1785	32	5
1786	25	3
1787	26	2
1788	25	6
1789	36	2
1790	25	2
1791	24	2
1792	26	3
1793	18	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	260	40

In the account in 1792, which, from the indisposition of the minister, is the latest account that has been taken of the parish, the number of families was 231, of souls 994, of males 475, of females 519, all of whom are members of the national church, excepting 13 families which are Seceders.

It appears, by the return made to Dr Webster in 1755, that the population of Whitekirk was 369
of Tynninghame - - - 599

Total	-	-	-	-	-	968
Population of both in 1792	-	-	-	-	-	994
						<hr/>
Increase	-	-	-	-	-	26

It is said, however, that the population at the beginning of this century was greater than at present. The parish then contained

contained 3 villages, of which the least vestige is not now to be seen. In one of them were numbers of fishers, and houses for the curing of herrings. At present the number of fishing boats in the parish is reduced to one.

There are no manufactures or trades people, but such as are necessary for carrying on the business of agriculture. There are two ale-houses, and three others licensed to retail British spirits. There are 2 established schools in the parish, the one at Whitekirk, the other at Tynninghame.

Poor.—By the Session-Book of Tynninghame, it appears that a scheme was proposed in 1745 by the Justices of the Peace, and Ministers of this county, for erecting a general work-house for the maintenance of the poor of the county. The session did not accede to the proposal, as this parish is furnished with poor-houses of its own sufficient to lodge, and funds to maintain its own poor. The number of poor in the parish is not great; they are maintained by the weekly collections, and the interest of 511 l. 10 s. 2½ d. mortgaged to the session. There is also 70 l. more mortgaged to them, but the interest is still paid to the sister of the mortgager.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The extent of the sea coast is about three miles. In the north part of the parish there is a number of rocks, which have been very fatal to mariners at different times. Within these two years several vessels have been wrecked there; and, to the honour of some of the farmers in the neighbourhood, every exertion was made to save the unhappy sufferers and their effects, though, it must be confessed, the humanity of some of the lower class of people was not so very conspicuous on such awful occasions.

On the top of Whitekirk hill there is a cairn, which is said to be the burial-place of two young men, who were killed by a detachment from the garrison of the Bala at the time of the Reformation. The people, with a very few exceptions, are sober, honest, and industrious; their dress and mode of living are much altered within these 20 years. The roads are tolerably good, and much improved of late. For several years preceding 1794, with a view to lessen the number of crows, which in this parish and neighbourhood destroy a vast quantity of grain, the farmers assailed themselves in so much a plough, and appointed a person to pay, from the common stock, a penny for each old crow's head, and a half-penny for a young one: The effects of this scheme are now very perceptible, as the number of crows is now greatly reduced.

N U M-

NUMBER XLIII.

PARISH OF GLASSERTON.

(COUNTY OF WIGTON.—PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON.—
AND SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.)

*From communications obligingly procured for this work, by the
Rev. DR DAVIDSON of Whithorn, from ROBERT HAW-
THORN STEWART Esq; of Physgill, MATTHEW CAMP-
BELL, Esq; and other Gentlemen.*

Extent and Boundaries.

THE parish of Glasserton lies in the presbytery and shire of Wigton, and in the synod of Galloway. At its east and north-east confines, this parish is bounded by the parishes of Whithorn, Sorbie, and Kirkinner; on the west and north-west by the bay of Luce, and the parish of Mochrum; on the south and south-east by the same bay, and the parish of Whithorn. It measures, in length, from its southern to its northern extremity, about seven miles and five furlongs; at its greatest breadth two miles and seven furlongs; where it is narrowest, not more than a mile and a half.

Surface and Aspect.—In its natural aspect the surface of the ground is rugged, unequal, and hilly. Towards the north, it rises to an elevation somewhat higher than the level of its southern parts. The hills are rocky, and, for the most part, covered

covered with heath. The lower tracts lying among them are marshy. The soil is usually loam, gravel, peat-earth, or clay. Granite and schistus compose, for the most part, the strata of the rocks. Yet, beds of that mixture of carbonated lime and clay, which is known by the name of marl, have been here and there discovered; and the marl has been dug for manure, till the pits are now nearly exhausted. The sea beach exhibits no such diversity of the exuviae of marine animals, as might prove very interesting to the lover of conchology. The ordinary indigenous grasses form the common sward of the pasture-grounds. At the sea-shore, the rocks rise over the waters, with a bold, abrupt, beetling termination of the land. Little native unplanted wood is to be seen within the parish. Furze and wild shrubs are more plentiful. The general course and temperature of the weather are variable, but mild. The genial influence of spring is commonly felt here, as around all these western coasts, somewhat earlier in the year than in the interior parts, or on the eastern side of the kingdom. Frosts are rarely intense or long continued: Snow seldom accumulates to a great depth, or lies long upon the ground. Some small streams, and many springs, serve to water the parish; but it is neither bounded nor intersected by any great river. Upon the rock within the sea-mark, at a place called Monreith, there grows a considerable abundance of those manure plants, which are frequently burnt for the sake of the kelp or alkali of their ashes; but little of that species which are employed in agriculture, as a rich manure, is to be seen on this part of the coast.

Wild Animals.—The fox, the weasel, the otter, the hare, the mouse, the mole, are almost the only species of wild four footed animals now remaining in this parish. The adder is the only formidable reptile. The wild fowls are numerous,
being

being of the sea partly, partly of the land. A great diversity of sea fishes are found on the coast. Trouts and other common small fishes are taken in the streams of fresh water.

Inhabitants.—The number of the inhabitants of the parish of Glasserton was in the year 1755, 809, and may be, at present, about 900 souls. Of these 151 are resident on the estate of Castle Stewart.

Heritors.—Sir William Maxwell of Monreith, the heirs of the late Admiral Keith Stewart, the Earl of Galloway, Robert Hawthorn Stewart, Esq; of Physgill, and ——— Stewart, Esq; of Castle Stewart, are the principal heritors, Mr Hawthorn Stewart of Physgill is the chief resident heritor,

Farmers.—The greater part of the inhabitants are usually employed in the labours of husbandry, as farmers, house-servants, cottagers hired by the year, or day-labourers.

The farmers hold their possessions, for the most part, by leases, varying in duration commonly from the term of three to 19, or 21 years. For the green low arable lands of the parish, the yearly rent varies, at an average, from 8 s. to 1 l. 10 s. an acre. The heath covered moors affording, at an average, not more than from 2 s. 6 d. to 7 s. an acre of yearly rent. The farms differ in extent, and in the sum of the annual rent to the landlord, some yielding not more than 20 l. or 30 l. while others pay between 200 l. and 300 l. a-year.

Black Cattle.—In the rural oeconomy of the farmers in the parish of Glasserton, the first object is, the breeding and feeding of black cattle. These are commonly of the well known Galloway race, not without some occasional intermixture

mixture of the Irish and English breeds. But the pure Galloway race is preferred to all others. The calves are all reared. For the first eight months of its life, the calf is usually left to suck its mother's milk. After attaining the full age of one year, it obtains the name of a stirk, and is sold to the cattle dealers at the average price of 2 l. 10 s. or 3 l. At the age of three years, the bullocks and heifers of this parish, are sold often at the rate of 7 l. or 8 l. a-head. The common price for well grown and well fed oxen, at the age of four years, is from 9 l. to 11 l. each. Old cows, when it is no longer eligible to keep them for producing calves and giving milk, are sold at the price of 8 l. or 10 l. each, to be fattened for the butcher. The green or heathy pasture of the fields; cut grass while it is still green and unwithered; potatoes and turnips, straw and hay, are the several sorts of food with which these cattle are nourished. They are here and there wintered in sheds, and cow-houses, as well to preserve them from suffering by the inclemency of the season, as that the refuse of their forage and litter, mixed with their dung, may accumulate for manure to the ground under tillage. As much of the milk is consumed by the calves, the quantity of the butter and cheese annually made is smaller in proportion to the number of the milk-cows, than in the parishes of Ayrshire.

Agriculture.—Tillage for the production of grains and bulbous rooted vegetables, is, in its importance, the second object of attention, and source of profit, to the farmers of this parish. Lime imported from Whitehaven; marl dug from those pits which are now nearly exhausted; dung; and composts of dung, earth, and lime, are the manures employed to fertilize the soil. From one fifth to one third part of the arable ground of every farm is annually plowed; the remaining

maining four-fifths, or two thirds, preserved for graft. The sillage of every year is usually commenced in October and November. The chain plough has been tried; but the common old Scottish plough is generally preferred to every other model, as being the best adapted to the nature of the country. The plough is usually drawn by two horses, and the ploughmen are, to a reasonable degree, alert and skilful. Oats and bear, or barley, are the grains chiefly cultivated. Seed-time is from about the beginning of March to the beginning of May. Potatoes have long been skilfully and successfully cultivated here. The culture of turnips, being recommended by the example and success of some of the principal landholders, begins to enter every year more and more into the ordinary agriculture of this parish. Corn, for seed, has been occasionally imported hither, from the most distant parts of Scotland, and even England; and it has been found highly advantageous, to make very frequent changes of corn for seed; still bringing the new seed corn from a soil as opposite as possible in its nature, to the soil on which the seed is to be sown. The season for cutting down and gathering in the corn, is usually from the 20th day of August, to the 15th of October. Instances have occurred, in which barley has yielded, of increase, 12 times the quantity of the seed; bear, an increase equal to 10 times the quantity of seed; and oats, 8 seeds. Tartarian oats having been tried here, has been known to yield an increase equal to fourteen times the quantity of the seed employed. The ordinary *rotation of crops* is, upon a field newly broken up, three successive white crops; with the last of these, grass-seeds, to afford a sufficient sward for hay or pasture, on the fourth and subsequent years; and then the field is left to rest for 6, 7, or 9 years, undisturbed by the plough. Both corn and barley are carefully weeded in summer. The corn cut down in harvest, is put up to dry for

the barn, in shocks only. Large quantities of both potatoes and grain are annually exported. Sometimes the course of crops, above described, is so far deviated from, that, after the third crop of grain, the field is manured with dung, and planted with potatoes or turnips; after which it is, on the fifth year, sown with barley and grass seeds. After the reaping of the barley, the field is left to enjoy the usual period of cessation from tillage.

Sheep.—Sheep are the third in importance of the articles of the stock and produce of the farms in this parish. The small white-faced race of the parish of Mochrum; the well known, small, black-faced breed of Galloway; the variety produced by the skilful management of the celebrated *Culley*; the Spanish and the Shetland races of sheep, are all known and fed here. A mixture of the black-faced Galloway, with the *Culley* breed, has been also tried. But the common Galloway race is the most prevalent. Neither the Spanish nor the Shetland sheep has, as yet, been found to thrive here, in such a manner as might encourage the common farmer to receive them into his flocks. The practice of smearing the sheep, annually, at the beginning of winter, with butter and tar, has begun to fall into disuse; because the ordinary temperature of winter on these coasts, is extremely mild; and the quality of the wool of sheep unsmeared is, for the most part, considerably better, than the quality of that which is clotted with tar. The finest wool is sold to the merchants at the price of 16 s. a stone. Those lambs which can be annually spared for sale, are sold at the average rate of about 6 l. Sterling a score. Sheep of the age of 3 or 4 four years, are bought from this parish, for the market, at the rate of 10 l. or 12 l. a score. In some instances, sheep of that age, have been sold here, at above a guinea a head.

Swine.

Swine.—Swine are fed in considerable numbers, by the farmers and cottagers in this parish. They are nourished chiefly upon the refuse of potatoes, upon whey, and other small articles, which, but for them, might probably go to waste. The pork is a strong wholesome food, and a seasonable supply to the labourers, in those times of the year in which it is less usual to furnish them with fresh beef and mutton. They may be driven alive, even to a considerably distant place of sale : Or, they may be fattened and slaughtered at home ; and the pork then pickled in barrels, or cured, as bacon, for exportation,

Horses.—The horses of this parish, are a stout, handsome race, very fit for the saddle, the load, or the draught. The breed has been diligently improved by the care of the gentlemen, landholders in Glasserton, and the neighbourhood. Most of the young horses are the progeny of stallions introduced into this country by the Earl of Galloway, and the late Admiral Keith Stewart. It is probable, that the *variety* of the horse now prevalent in these parts of Galloway, has been gradually produced by the continual crossing of the small old Galloway breed, with foreign stallions.

Inclosures, &c.—These are all the capital articles of farm-stock in this parish. Poultry, and the usual domestic animals, are kept about every farm-house and cottage. All the instruments of agriculture are of a construction sufficiently skilful and convenient. Inclosures, and the divisions of farms and fields, are formed commonly by the Galloway stonedike ; which is sometimes a double wall without mortar, and is often raised to the height of 6 or 7 quarters of an ell. Attempts to produce hedges, for fences, have never yet been successful

successful here, on account of the vicinity of the sea, the reluctance of the soil, or other causes. The roads are good, and perhaps sufficiently numerous and well directed : They are made, and from time to time repaired, at the expence of 15 s. Sterling, levied in conversion for the statute-labour, upon every hundred pounds Scottish, of the valued rents. Peats, from the morasses, are the common fuel : Pit-coal is obtained, for the same purpose, from England, at the price of 15 s. a ton ; and it has lately begun to be used here in larger quantities than formerly. The farm-houses, and the office houses respectively pertaining to them, are, for the most part, commodious and substantial : The office houses stand usually at some small convenient distance from the farm-house.

Markets.—In comparison with many parts of the country, the parish of Glasferton cannot be said to be very disadvantageously situate in respect to markets for the exports which it produces, and the imports needed for the use of its inhabitants. Whithern ; the isle of Whithern ; and Port-William ; the two last sea-ports, are the nearest places worthy of being mentioned as seats of merchants, shop-keepers, and artisans. But the exportation is chiefly to England, or to the shires of Ayr, Renfrew, and Lanerk, in Scotland. The black cattle are exported, annually, by land, to the great markets and trysts in the northern counties of England. February, May, and September, are the months in which black cattle are, every year, sent to the markets. The expence of sending a bullock, from this neighbourhood to St Faith's fair, may be reasonably estimated at 16 s. or 17 s. By the fatigue and hunger of the journey, the animal suffers a loss of flesh equivalent to 17 s. more. The sheep, of whatever age, are exported, by sea, to Whitehaven or Liverpool. For both sheep
and

and black cattle, however, the establishment, and extension of manufactures has begun to afford a partial market in the 3 counties of Ayr, Renfrew, and Lanerk, which is little less convenient than the markets of England. The wool was formerly sold wholly into Ayrshire, for the manufactures of coarse woollen stuffs, which have been long carried on there: But the English wool-merchants have lately found their way hither. The surplus grain, whether barley, bear, or oats, is exported to Liverpool and Whitehaven: The quantity and value of the barley and bear exported, are greater than those of the corn. Lime and coals are, among other articles, imported from Whitehaven, in return for the exports carried hither.

Example of the Landholders.—Fortunately, for the improvement of the agriculture, and of the rural oeconomy in general, of the parish of Glasserton, the principal resident landholders have paid extraordinary and highly successful attention to this object.

Robert Humeiborn Stewart, Esq; of Physgill, in the general management of his estates, and particularly in the cultivation of those fields which he retains in his own natural possession; has eminently displayed that active and vigorous, yet temperate and rational spirit of improvement, which ever contributes the most effectually to increase the fertility of a country, and to excite and enlighten the rural industry of its inhabitants; because it is equally remote from the folly of the agricultural projector, who thinks no practice in husbandry good, that was ever tried before; and from the blind prejudices of the rustic, who believes every thing to be absurd, that has not been recommended by ancient custom in the place. Mr Stewart has subdivided, and inclosed his fields with excellent dry-stone walls; has adopted the best rotation
of

of crops known in the country for that ground which he subjects to tillage; has imported grain for a change of seed, and sheep to ameliorate the breed of his flocks, from the most distant parts of England. He has very successfully employed lime, spread as a manure upon the unbroken surface, to improve the natural pasture of ground which it was not then eligible to plow. In the culture of turnips, a species of green crop still too rare in this country, he has set a very skilful and fortunate example. The use of potatoes, as a very beneficial fallowing crop, has been equally encouraged by his care and success. Having turned his attention particularly to the grazier-farming, of feeding and fattening black-cattle for the market; he has conducted this branch of husbandry with a degree of activity and skill highly advantageous to himself, and useful in the country.—It would be illiberal and uncandid to omit mentioning here, that, from motives of true public spirit, Mr Stewart has shewn himself particularly friendly to these statistical inquiries, to the researches of the Board of Agriculture, and to whatever collection or diffusion of useful information, tends to enlighten and improve rural industry and oeconomy.

The house of *Phyggill* is spacious and beautifully situate. The circumjacent fields spread out around it with a very fine effect. The vicinity of the sea-shore is exceedingly interesting. The plantations, within these grounds, are not extensive, but not stunted or dwarfish. Mr Stewart has formed an excellent garden, which he has surrounded with an uncommonly good stone and lime wall, full 14 feet in height. It affords great abundance of fruits, flowers, and pot-herbs, both ordinary and rare, and of the best quality.

The late *Admiral Keith Stewart* of *Glasserton* had, for many years, applied himself, with great earnestness, to beautify and improve his estate in this parish. He built on
it

it a stately mansion-house, formed an excellent garden and scattered plantations over his grounds in that arrangement in which they seemed likely to thrive the best, to afford the most useful shelter, and the most to gratify the eye of taste. In his own natural possession, he reserved nearly two thousand acres of land, almost the whole estate of Glasserton (properly so called). For managing the husbandry of this tract of ground, he hired his upper farm servants, from those counties in England, of which the agriculture is esteemed to be the most skilful. He formed, at the same time, a square of farm office-houses, possessing every requisite accommodation for every sort of animal-stock, and for all the other uses of rural oeconomy. With equal attention, he provided all the best instruments of improved agriculture, and breeds of the best races of the different sorts of animals to be fed upon his lands. In the system of farming which he thus adopted, four hundred black cattle, forty score of sheep, and a proportionate number of horses, formed his animal stock. Out of the 2000 acres, about two hundred might be annually plowed to bear crops; and of these, sixty were usually planted with turnips: Three hundred acres, nearly, were occupied by gardens, houses, and woods: Two hundred acres more were reserved as meadow; one half bearing sown grasses; the other half being bog, and affording only the unimproved natural sward. A number of day-labourers, varying from 50 to 70, were constantly employed in the farm-work on these grounds. The use of oxen, for drawing the cart and plough, was zealously adopted. For this purpose, the stoutest and largest boned oxen were usually selected, out of those droves of Irish cattle, which were continually imported, through this country, towards England. At the age of 4 years, these were yoked in the draught: They were wrought, in this labour, for the next 4 years: On the 9th year, they were freed from the yoke, and

and fattened for the butcher. While at work, these bullocks were plentifully fed with hay, straw, or occasionally potatoes, with the addition of a small weekly allowance of corn. The oxen thus fed and applied to labour, were found to have nearly the same strength of draught as horses; but their pace, under the yoke, was so much slower than the ordinary pace of the horse, that three ploughs drawn by oxen, did not commonly perform more labour than two ploughs drawn by horses would, within the same space of time, perform. The working bullock was, however, nourished at one half of the expence of the sustenance to the working horse, and was much less liable to disease. For ploughing stony unequal ground, the ox is less fit than the horse; because, when the plough chances to strike upon any obstacle, such as a rock or root, in the furrow, the ox is too indocile and refractory, to step back with the same readiness as the horse, and suffer the ploughman to turn his instrument aside from the obstacle which it cannot remove. All the agricultural improvements of the late Admiral Stewart were prosecuted on a large scale, and at a great expence. So many of them were, of necessity, merely experimental, that they cannot be supposed to have every one already repaid the expence at which they were made, with a reasonable surplus of profit. But they must, in the whole, have so augmented the fertility of the soil, and so increased its value by the addition of such a capital sunk upon it, that the lands cannot, in the end, fail to yield an enlarged produce and rental, more than sufficient to compensate, fully, all the care and expence at which they have been improved. This highly cultivated condition of the estate of Glasserton, is undeniably a fine monument of the taste, judgment, and ardent public spirit of its late proprietor.

Mr Stewart of Castle-Stewart does not, indeed, reside upon his estate in this parish; but it is, in his absence, under the management of *Matthew Campbell, Esq;* a gentleman well acquainted with the best husbandry of England, and of this country; and most laudably zealous to improve the agriculture of the county, and the value of the estates under his care. In granting leases, and in all his arrangements with the tenants, he earnestly endeavours to hold out such encouragements, and to impose such restrictions, as may best overcome obstinate prejudices in favour of old unskilful practice; and may best promote the adoption of that modern, improved, rural oeconomy which promises the highest advantages at once to the tenant, and to his landlord.

Price of Labour.—The price of labour would probably be much higher than it is, at present, in this parish, and throughout the county, were it not for the near vicinity of Ireland, and the continual emigration of great numbers of Irish labourers. A stout, alert, and skilful ploughman receives, together with his board in his master's house, 4 l. sterling of wages, in the half year. A good maid-servant's wages are usually from thirty to forty shillings in the half year, beside her board. Few or no artisans reside within this parish, except such as are employed solely in the custom-work of their fellow-parishioners, and other near neighbours. Their wages are in a due proportion to those of the hands engaged in farm-labour.

Church, &c.—The church stands near to *Glasserton House*, and is romantically embosomed in wood, which sheds around it a venerable gloom, as if it were a druidical temple, or the sacred grove of some Syrian idol. It was built in the year 1752. The wood was at a much later period planted around

the church-yard, by the late Admiral Stewart, to hide the church, that it might not deform the aspect of his ornamented grounds. The manse was built 18 or 20 years since. The present respectable clergyman of this parish is the Rev. Dr Laing.

Antiquities and History.—Of the ancient history of the parish of Glasserton, there has not been much recorded or remembered. There were probably no fixed dwellings within its area, before the time of the Roman conquest of these south-west parts of Scotland. Whithern, and all its neighbourhood, were well known to the Romans: Vestiges of Roman encampments are still to be seen in these environs. Ninian, the founder of the cathedral church of Whithern, and the first bishop of Galloway, is said to have occasionally inhabited a cave which is still shewn on the sea shore of this parish, adjacent to the house of Physgill. It is probable that the *Anglo-Saxons* of Northumberland, at the time when they possessed the sea-coast of Galloway, between the sixth and the ninth centuries, first imposed upon this tract, the name of *Glasserton*; which, in the ancient Saxon language, and in its progeny, the modern German, signifies *the bare hill*: a name which, at that time, might perhaps be intended to describe the lands to which it was given, as destitute of wood, while the contiguous grounds were overgrown with it. On the verge of the sea-shore, at a small distance from St Ninian's cave, are the vestiges of some ancient castle, which may possibly have been built in the eleventh or the twelfth century, (to judge from the masonry of the wall, and the outline of the foundation), and which might be the original house or castle of Physgill. In the course of the centuries subsequent, the parish was erected; its limits were defined; the husbandry of agriculture and pasturage, was, at length, fully established here; the labourers of the ground were emancipated

emancipated from the servile state of villinage; the lands passed into the hands of the ancestors and predecessors of their present proprietors; and that system of life and rural oeconomy, which we have surveyed, was at last introduced.

Improvements Suggested.—It is to be wished and expected from the liberal intelligence, and prudent activity of the landholders, and the inhabitants in general, of this parish, that the culture of green crops may be more generally and heartily adopted; that new efforts may be continually made among them, to bring still more and more of their moorlands and muirs under tillage; that the farms may be still more carefully inclosed and subdivided; that the culture of wheat, in a certain proportion, may be adopted into their agriculture,—since where barley grows, wheat may, very often, be successfully produced; that the cross-roads may be multiplied and improved; that, by the increase of navigation and trade at the nearest sea-ports, and the introduction of new manufactures into the county,—the great market for the produce of the parish, may be, as it were, brought nearer to it; that beef, mutton, and pork, may be prepared here in large quantities, for sea-stores, and for other exportation; that, without deserting their husbandry, these good people may take a profitable share in the fishery of the coasts; and, above all, that a *parochial school*, which is unaccountably wanting, may be speedily instituted *.—H.

A P.

* Any inaccuracies or deficiencies in the above account, are to be imputed, by the candid reader, not to the gentlemen by whom the information was liberally communicated, but to the person who arranged it for the press, and to circumstances which have rendered it impossible to submit the *proof sheets* of this paper to those gentlemen's revision. For many particulars defective here, the reader is referred to the very valuable and elaborate accounts of the parishes of Sorbie and Whithorn, written by the ingenious and learned Dr Davidson, and inserted in the I. and XVI. vols. of this work.—H.



A P P E N D I X

T O

VOLUME XVII.

In consequence of a letter from the Hon. Lord Eskgrove to Mr M^cCourty, stating some inaccuracies in the account of New Hall, and suggesting the propriety of having them corrected; the following more perfect one has been drawn up, to be inserted, (in the event of another edition), immediately after the article *Pennycuik House*, in the history of that parish.

New Hall, Spittal, &c.

NEW HALL, about three miles above Pennycuik, on the north side of the North Esk, was in 1529, and during the rest of that century, in the possession of a family of the name of Crichtoun. How long it was a place, and inhabited by them, before that period, is uncertain; but the Castle of Brunstoun, the ruins of which still remain, about two miles down the river, and on the same side, was also occupied, by a family of that name, in 1568, at which time, as appears by this date on the wall, a part of it at least seems to have been built. Whether, prior to the date of the earliest writing, it had received the name of *New Hall*, in contradistinction to an old building that had formerly existed, is not known; but that this was the case is probable, from its having been the opinion of one of its proprietors that it was
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once a religious house ; and also from the name of *New House* having been given to a building in somewhat similar circumstances, close by it, on the lands of Spittal ; both of which particulars will be more fully stated afterwards.

In 1646 it belonged to Dr Pennycook ; and in his works, he mentions some particular plants found upon the grounds. He was also proprietor of Romanno, a place not far distant to the south, in the parish of Newlands, where, in 1677, a serious squabble, between two parties of gypsies, seems to have happened, that particularly attracted his notice. In 1683, he built a dovecot on the spot, apparently to shew his wit, in the following very homely distich,

The field of gipsie blood, which here you see,

A shelter for the harmless dove shall be.

Along with this couplet are, the date, his own initials, and those of his wife, still on the front of the pigeon-house ; and though his verses are but poor productions, and his wit of a low cast now, he was one of the poets of his day. About this time, also, some farms, called Whitefield, between these two places, belonged to a son of the historian and Poet Drummond of Hawthorndean. Drummond himself died in 1649.

In 1703, about the time of the union, New Hall was acquired by Sir David Forbes, Knight, who was married to Catherine Clerk, sister to the first Sir John Clerk of Penny-cuick, and grandmother to David Rae, Esq; Lord Eskgrove, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, another sister being married to Mr Brown of Dolphington.

On the death of Sir David, it devolved upon his eldest son, Mr John Forbes, advocate, who, as well as his father, was a lawyer of very considerable eminence. He was cousin-german, and deputy at Edinburgh, to President Duncan Forbes of Culloden, when Lord Advocate ; an apartment in the house

is still known by the name of the Advocate's Room; and two of the fields among the inclosures, to the east, are called the upper and nether (lower) Cumberland Parks. The victory at Culloden seems to have been peculiarly agreeable in this district. A farm to the south, the property of the Hon. Captain Cochrane of Lamancha, is called Cumberland; and on the front of the house belonging to it, is inscribed, "William Duke of Cumberland, Liberty and Property's defender. Culloden Muir, April 16th 1746."—The bodily, as well as mental abilities of Mr Forbes, seem to have been remarkable, for it is related of him, that he once walked from Edinburgh to Glasgow, (44 English miles), and after returning on foot, the same day, danced at a ball in the evening.

While inhabited by the Crichtons, it was an irregular castle, and, with its appendages, covered the whole breadth of the point on which it stands, formed by a deep ravine on either side, running up towards the Pentland Hills, from the glen of the Esk behind. The ground floor, in the front of the present building, made a part of one of its towers; it is arched above, with slits, for defence, on every side, and its wall is so strong, as, in one place, to have a closet cut out of its thickness. Some vaults are left, underneath the remains of a small round tower, on the north, overhanging the eastern recess, through which descends a rivulet, in several beautiful cascades, rendered dark, and extremely romantic, by the high and close, and wildly growing trees with which it is filled. Over the western, which is dry, though likewise shaded with thick foliage, on a point to the south of the garden, was the chapel and prison; which last is still remembered to have been used for refractory coaliers. A walk goes round this point, forming a noble terrace, from the west end of the house, looking up the glen, and over to a mineral well among the copse, and underneath the pines, on the other side. The

water

water of this spring, which is extremely clear, has somewhat of a bitterish taste, and gives a darker tint to the freestone rock, down which it runs to the river below. With a trifling assistance from art, the adjoining part of the rock, opposite to the remains of an old washing-house, and looking down the irriguous and deeply sequestered glade or holm, immediately behind the place, might easily be converted into a delightful hermetic retreat. In a letter to the proprietor from the late William Tytler, Esq; of Woodhouselee, of date 31st October 1791, he says, 'In my infancy, when I staid at New Hall, the chapel was in ruins, but the remains of the four walls were seen, and the east gable, with a pointed arched window, was pretty entire. On the west end was a small piece of ground, which was called the Chapel-yard, on the north side of which was a broad grass-walk, shaded with a double row of fine old spreading beeches. I remember to have heard Mr Forbes say, that New Hall was a religious house. The lands of Spittal were hospital-lands, probably endowed for sustaining the hospital, under the care and management of the religious foundation of New Hall.' The territories of the church, from the names of many different places in the parish, seem to have been very extensive in this quarter; and if New Hall was once a religious house, which is not unlikely, it must have been at a very early period. There is a tradition still handed about, that the proprietors of this place had the right of pit and gallows, or the power of life and death over their vassals; and, in confirmation of this, a story is told, that one of them, after repeated offences, having caught a young man breaking into the orchard, then at the foot of the eastern recess, gave orders that he should immediately be shut up in the dungeon. His mother arriving at the castle, in quest of her son, was told to go and get some refreshment in the hall, and that she should

should soon have a fight of him ; which she accordingly did, and, on being taken to the bottom of the glen, found him hanging at a tree on the spot where he had been caught. As it was only done with the design of giving the culprit and his mother a severe fright, he was instantly cut down, but it was too late ; and among the many imprecations she sent forth, it is said one was a wish, ‘ that no proprietors should ever be succeeded by a son in the estate.’

‘ My mother shall the horrid furies raise,

‘ With imprecations.’

Chapman's Odyssey.

Although the effects of this curse have, long since, been curtailed and ended, it is still remembered as part of the story. Moans and screams are yet frequently heard, at night, on that side of the house, among the trees in the deep recess ; and whether from the rapidity of its descent, or its connection with this event, is unknown, but the stream itself is still distinguished by the name of the hanging burn. It is farther added, that, in order to do away the blasting influence of this malediction, the master of the place set out on a long pilgrimage, and leaving an only sister, of the name of Mary, behind, she amused her lonely hours with the beauties of the scenery around. About half a mile above the house, the banks of the Esk widen and flatten for a considerable way upwards, excepting at one place, about the middle of this expansion, where, contracted and divided by a crossing ridge of limestone, it forms a lia or fall, and, in successive leaps, pours itself into a circular pool, that, under birches, shrubs, and rocks, spreads in front, upon a bank of pebbles, betwixt and a little green facing the south. Up to this beautiful and sequestered spot looks a promontory, formed by the sudden expansion of the river's banks ; That part of it, most in view of the lin, is marked by a round turf seat, that terminates a winding path, along the north brink of the glen, all

the way from the house ; and from the attachment of that lady to this seat in particular, the whole eminence has got, and still retains, the romantic title of *Mary's Bower*. A lime-stone rock in it, now working, has no other name but *Mary's Bower Quarry*. The winding path can be traced by a flowering shrub, here and there, dropt since, all its length westward ; and on the east side of the seat, a small stream precipitates over the lime-stone craggs, amidst birches and copsewood, to the bottom of the glen, upwards of a hundred feet. The whole of this tradition was accidentally told by an old coalier, of the name of James Dixon, in March 1787, on inquiring how the quarry came to get the name of *Mary's Bower* ; and has since been heard from several others, with some trifling variations ; but from all, this inference is clear, that, at a period so early, as that such an occurrence could have happened, this place was in the hands of an independent lay proprietor. In the title-deeds, the fortalice of Coaltown is mentioned as belonging to it, and a field among the inclosures between the Cumberland Parks, and stream called Monk's Burn, to the east, is called the Coaltown Park, where the tower once stood.

In the time of Dr Penecuick, while Cromwell himself was following the King's army towards Worcester, some parties from General Monk's detachment, left behind in Scotland, are said to have been sent to this neighbourhood. According to this account, they had a skirmish on the Harleymuir, a little way east on the other side of the water, and gave the name of the *Steel* to a part of it that descends to the lower banks of the Esk, in a point formed by the glen of that river, and another that enters it from a rock on the south, called the Harbour Craig. This circumstance is also said to have distinguished a stream, that enters the glen of the Esk behind a cottage, with its rural accompaniments, in several considerable

able falls, about a mile below the house, and opposite to the Steel, by the name of Monk's Burn: One of the Pentland, by some thought to be here a corruption of Pictland, hills, about a mile up, from behind which this stream descends, is called Monk's Rigg (ridge); and the glade or holm through which the Esk winds, and at the head of which the cottage stands at its mouth, Monk's Haugh. At the source of the stream, however, from the west side of it, ascends one of the Spittal Hills, near the summit of which is a petrifying spring; and, advancing a little southward, the other hill, from which also, a great way up, issues some lime-water of an incrusting quality, though not so strong. At the foot of this last, in the verge of a rill coming down from between them, the old house of Spittal, new roofed, and modernised, now stands. In the title-deeds, the lands are designed, back and fore Spittal, and behind, at the west end of the hollow formed by the hills, and on the side of the Esk, which almost encircles them, are some ruins once taken for the original Spittal, but which now appear only to have been appendages to it. From these ruins two paths lead, the one to the Fore, or as it is at present called, the Old Spittal, on the east through the pass; and the other up the Esk, in the direction of the Frith of Forth. In the angle below the Old Spittal House, formed by the hill and Monk's Burn, a piece of very fertile ground is still called the Glebe Croft; and exactly opposite from the other side of the burn, rises Monk's Rigg, with Monk's Road pointing directly to Queensferry and Edinburgh, with its font-stone in view commanding all the south country on the brow, and the ornamented top of the cross, formerly erected on its edge, lying at the bottom of the hill. Previous to the detachment from Monk's army, therefore, and this singular coincidence of names, the ridge, burn, and haugh, from a very different description of inhabitants, had
already

already acquired their present designations. As the monasteries of Dundrennan, Melrofs, Newbottle, Newabbey, Glenculce, Kelso, and Culrofs, belonged to the order of Cisterrians, or Bernardines, who, by the religious profuseness of King, or St David, and others, were extremely rich; and the parish had its old name from St Kentigern, who was of that order, and a monk in the Abbey of Culrofs, founded by Malcolm M'Duff Earl of Fife. The Spittal was probably a hospitium or inn, and the road, with its crosses, which also served as land-marks, an accommodation for travellers passing from one monastery to another; the Back Spittal suiting such as went by the north side of the hills. In confirmation of this, the weary and benighted traveller is still considered as having a right to shelter and protection at the Old Spittal; and one of the out-houses, with some straw, is generally allotted for that purpose. It is also remarkable, that there is still an inn upon these lands, though indeed on a different foundation, making the first stage on the great roads from Edinburgh to Moffat, and Dumfries and Biggar, along the foot of the Pentland Hills; and farther, it is called the *New House*, though now a very old one, seemingly to distinguish it from the Spittals, in the place of which it had been built. These lands, till lately, held of Herriot's Hospital in Edinburgh. The last proprietor who resided at Spittal, where there is still a comfortable slated house, and some fine old ash trees, was a gentleman of the name of Oswald, who was accidentally shot by his servant who was walking behind with his gun, in going to Slipperfield Loch, in the parish of Linton, to shoot wild ducks; and he lies in that church-yard, under the following epitaph.

Jacobo Oswaldo de Spittal Marito bene merenti Grizzella
Russellia conjux moestissima, P. C.

Marmor

Marmor hoc quo affidens sæpe curavi genium mortuo mihi imponi volui. Siste viator quisquis es, discumbas licet, et si copia est marmore hoc uti ego olim fruis cassis. Hoc si rite feceris monumentum non violabis nec manes meos habebis iratos. Vale et Vive! After his death, the property was acquired by Mr Forbes.

The upper part of Monk's Burn runs upon rotten whin, of which all the Pentland Hills, to the east of it, seem to be entirely composed; and about half way between Monk's Rigg and Hangh, near the burn, there is a chalybeate spring of a very strong quality. One of the Pentland Hills, along which a road to the north side is formed, and in part metalled, is composed of a rotten whin, of a beautiful reddish buff-colour, like Kensington gravel, so much admired for walks, or the appearance that some kinds of clay takes when burnt.

There is also on the side of the same road a thin vein of clay, of a light pink or lilac tint. This road has remained unfinished, and of course impassible for some years, although it might be compleated, in the most sufficient manner, for less than 150 l. Sterling, which would give a full and easy supply of both lime and coal, to those on the north side of the hills; while, by a strange oversight, during this time, very large sums have been expending by the inhabitants of that district, in uneffectual trials to obtain what they can so much more easily, and with certainty, at so small an expence, bring within their reach. On the east of Monk's Burn there is no lime; but on the west, not only the low grounds are full of both lime and coal, but incrusting, or lime springs, are to be found, more than two thirds of the way up, both the hills of Spittal and Carlops. This is contrary to what has been asserted, and to the theory of mineralogists, that mountains are entirely composed of primitive rocks, such as whin-

whinstone and other lapideous strata ; but it is not wonderful, for, of the many attempts philosophy has made to get beyond its reach, none, as yet, seem to have been more unsuccessful than those to discover the internal structure of the earth, so as to ascertain the rules by which she has been formed. The various fossils to be found on this rivulet are enumerated elsewhere, in the account of the parish ; and in consequence of the late remarkable flood in November 1795, since writing the above, it has burst into a coal-waste before it reached the falls, and its outlet has not yet been discovered this 3d December 1795.

A little below Monk's Haugh, surrounded with rising knolls, and, on three of its sides, by the wooded banks of the river, sweeping round, far beneath, is a clear and deep lake, without any visible supply or outlet, or change, at any time, in its depth, its waters always touching the green sward at the foot of its dry and undulating banks. Several years ago, the yawl of a pickeroon or provision boat, that runs from one island to another, had been picked up in the gulf of Mexico by a vessel from the West Indies, and was sent as a curiosity, being built of cedar, to the proprietor. Being repaired and painted, it was put upon the lake, and adds to its beauty. When, from the eastern extremity, the glare of a summer noon begins to mellow, the fish begin to leap, and the boat, with its broad ensign streaming at its stern, shoots along the bright surface, or floats stationary, and at rest on the smooth bosom of the lake ; when at this time the sun gets behind the ornamented farm-house of Old Harleymuir, on a height beyond the river above the Steel, and between and the Harbour Craig, and throws his warm empurpling rays on the Carlops Hill, in the distance to the right, the whole forms as enchanting a picture as the pencil could select. Between and the river on the east is the Mairfield Quarry, out of which
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the present house of Pennycuik was built, and also, though 16 miles distant, and in part over a very bad road, the church and spire of Peebles. The stone hardens when exposed to the air, and resembles, in appearance, the Portland stone in England.

On the south side of the Steel, and west from Harleymuir, at the meeting of two glens, is a singular rock, of a coarse freestone grit, composed of small semi-transparent pebbles, resembling a ruinous grey tower, called the Harbour Craig, (cragg). Among its rude pillars and crevices are a number of initials and dates, some of them much earlier, but most of them corresponding to the time of the commonwealth, and the reign of Charles the Second. They are said to have been the work of some of the Covenanters who took shelter about it, on the arbitrary proceedings and religious disturbances of those times. The years 1662 and 1666 are quite distinct, among many others. On 28th November 1666, at Rullion Green, a few miles north, the battle of Pentland Hills was fought, and the last of the party, that appeared in force, finally routed and dispersed, in their way back towards this quarter.

The Building seems to have remained unaltered till the time of Sir David Forbes, brother to Duncan Forbes of Culloden, and uncle to the President; when most of the old castle, and the religious house, if any of it remained, was pulled down, and the present double house erected in its stead, with a couple of wings projecting from the front, and walls from these to two pigeon-houses at a considerable distance, connected by a handsome iron rail. On the south-west side of this court was the garden called the Chapel-yard, mentioned by Mr Tytler, between and the western ravine; which, besides the beeches he describes, had also, on the same side, a square pond occupying its whole breadth, and

on the south, next the recess, a row of laburnums, now of a large size. North of the court were the offices, and in front, up to the high road, distant about half a mile, extended an avenue pointing to that end of the nearest hill, where, with an almost equal arch, and the same brightness of unbroken verdure, the northern hill of Spittal, on the other side of the Old Spittal House, passes behind it, and dips from the view. At some distance from the pigeon-houses, this was crossed by another avenue at right angles, stretching south-east and north-west. Behind the house was a small level green, surrounded by a terrace-walk, terminating in an arbour to the east, beneath which are some very old elder or bowertrees, laburnums, and birdcherries. This arbour looks over the new washing-house, on the holm, and river winding far below, before it turns round the Steel, that like a gently inclined plain, crossing an opening in the glen, shows its higher bank beyond, on this side of the lake. On the other side of the farthest Spittal Hill, the Esk takes its rise, and about a mile and a half west, forcing its way midst rough and pointed rocks, in a deep ravine through the Pentland ridge, betwixt the south hill of Spittal and Carlops, above where it is crossed by a bridge under the high road, it turns directly eastward to the Frith of Forth. Above this bridge have been found several pieces of very rich iron ore; and a great way up the Carlops Hill, is a strong petrifying spring. From this bridge, following the shape of a glen in which it is situated, runs a village, begun in 1784, with a triangular area at the turn of the pass or den about its middle, and a street, stretching from it to the bridge, and also southwards, forming part of the high road 60 feet wide. Most of the houses are covered with tiles and slates. Having purled its way from the bridge, beneath the wooded crags of the Spittal Hill, and a steep part of the high road called Wooabrac, the river winds

winds in deep sequestered glades under the south side of the house in its eastern direction, and presses on towards Brunstoune, Pennycuik, Old Woodhouselee, Roslin, Hawthornden, Melville Castle, and Dalkeith, where it is joined by the South Esk, from Arncliffe, Dalhousie, Newhottle, &c. on its way to Inveresk, Musselburgh, and the Frith of Forth. The principal glen, at the back of the house, separates Mid-Lothian from Tweeddale, and Pennycuik parish from that of Linton; but besides this one, within a mile beyond it, to the south, there are three others, with each its distinct character and rivulet, all running parallel to it, and uniting their streams, in succession, below the Harbour Craig. Thus united, they join the Esk between and the lower end of the Steel, at a little haugh about a quarter of a mile below the house, which, by taking a sudden turn and circuit before they meet, they almost surround.

What makes these particulars interesting, is, that at this time, when the property of Mr Forbes, this place was distinguished by Allan Ramsay's attachment to it, as well as to the proprietor and his family, in consequence of which it assisted in forming, and was chosen by him for the scenes of that celebrated Pastoral Comedy the Gentle Shepherd. 'While I passed my infancy at New Hall,' says Mr Tytler in his edition of King James's Poems, 'near Pentland Hills, where the scenes of this pastoral poem were laid, the seat of Mr Forbes, and the resort of many of the literati at that time, I well remember to have heard Ramsay recite, as his own production, different scenes of the Gentle Shepherd, particularly the *two first*, before it was printed. I believe my honourable friend, Sir James Clerk of Pennycuik, where Ramsay frequently resided, and who, I know, is possessed of several original poems composed by him, can give the same testimony.—P. S. The above note was shown to

' Sir James Clerk, and had his approbation.' In summer 1788 Mr Tytler, when on a visit to the present proprietor, enumerated among those to whom he here referred, President Forbes, Baron Sir John, and William Clerk his brother, of Pennycuik, Dr Clerk, and Provost Lindsay of Edinburgh, and also pointed out the room that had been usually occupied by himself. Of the two first scenes particularly condescended on, and which indeed contain all the first act, and most of the picturesque scenery in the poem. The first is,

Beneath the south side of a craggy field,

Where crystal springs the halcyon waters yield :

And the second,

A flow'ry hewn between two verdant braes,

Where lassies use to wash and spread their cloths ;

A trotting burnie wimpling through the ground,

It's channel pebbles shining smooth and round :

JENNY.

Come, Meg, let's fa' to wark upon this green,

This shining day will bleach our linen clean ;

The water clear, the lift unclouded blew,

Will mak them like a lily wet wi' dew.

PEGGY.

Gae farer up the burn to Habbie's How,

Where a' the sweets of spring and summer grow,

Between two birks, out o'er a little lie,

The water fa's and maks a singand din ;

A pool breast-deep, beneath as clear as glass :

Kisses wi' easy whirls the bord'ring grass :

We'll end our washing while the morning's cool ;

And when the day grows hot, we'll to the pool,

There wash oursel's. —

JENNY.

JENNY.

Daft lassie, when we're naked, what'll ye say,

Gif our twa herds come brattling down the brae,

And see us sae?—

Between the house and the little haugh, where the Esk and the rivulets from the Harbour Craig meet, are some romantic grey craggs at the side of the water, looking up a turn in the glen, and directly fronting the south. Their crevices are filled with birches, shrubs, and copsewood; the clear stream purples its way past, within a few yards, before it runs directly under them, and projecting beyond their bases, they give compleat beild to whatever is beneath, and form the most inviting retreat imaginable. Farther up, the glen widens immediately behind the house, into a considerable green or holm, with the hanging burn, now more quiet, winding among pebbles, in short turns through it. At the head of this howm, on the edge of the stream, with an aged thorn behind them, are the ruins of an old washing house; and the place was so well calculated for the use it had formerly been applied to, that another more convenient one was built about twenty years ago, and is still to be seen. Still farther up the burn, agreeable to the description in the dialogue of the second scene, the hollow beyond Mary's Bower, where the Esk divides it in the middle, and forms a linn or leap, is named the How Burn; a small inclosure above is called the Braehead park; and the hollow below the cascade, with its bathing pool, and little green, its birches, wild shrubs, and variety of natural flowers in summer, with its rocks, and the whole of its romantic and rural scenery, coincides exactly with the description of Habby's How. It was so designed, no doubt, to distinguish it from the upper division of the How, either for the sake of the verse, and the alliteration or initial resemblance, or which is more likely, because some cottager of that name, in other parts of the poem called

Hab

Hab and Halbert, and a favourite in the family, had at that, or some former period, chosen this spot for the site of his hut. There are still the remains of a cottage on the top of the north bank, immediately over it, and the pool continues to be the favourite place for bathing. Farther up still, the grounds beyond the How Burn, to the westward, called Carlops, a contraction for Carline's Loup, were supposed once to have been the residence of a Carline or Witch, who lived in a dell, at the foot of the Carlops Hill, near a pass between two conic rocks: from the opposite points of which she was often observed at nights, by the superstitious and ignorant, bounding and frisking on her broom, across the entrance. Not far from this, on a height to the east, is a very ancient half withered solitary ash tree, near the old mansion-house of Carlops, overhanging a well, with not another of 30 years standing in sight of it; and from the open grounds to the south, both it and the glen, with the village, and some decayed cottages in it, and the Carline's Loup at its mouth, are seen. Ramsay may not have observed, or referred to this tree, but it is a curious circumstance that it should be there, and so situated as to complete the resemblance to the scene, which seems to have been taken from the place.

ACT II. SCENE II.

The open field.—A cottage in a glen,
 An auld wife spinning at the sunney end.—
 At a small distance, by a blasted tree,
 With faldd arms, and half-raised look ye see,
 Bauldy his lane.

The tradition, the objects of the landscape, and the poet's intimate acquaintance with every thing connected with his friends property, all tend to show, that not only the scenery, but

but the story itself, was in some measure borrowed from it. In the third act, Sir William Worthy laments the ruinous condition of many of the particulars which distinguished the place in the time of Sir David Forbes, and had been the result of his taste and attention. The avenues are not omitted, and even the tapestry which had covered two of the sides of the Advocate's Room, that when the proprietor took possession, were literally in the exact situation described at the beginning of the 3d act,

—————; no chimney left,

'The naked walls of tap'stry all bereft,'
is taken notice of. The offices, and pigeon-houses and gardens, gave rise to the following exclamation in the same scene,

My stables and pavilions broken walls !

That with each rainy blast decaying falls :

My gardens once adorned the most compleat,

With all that nature, all that art makes sweet, &c.

But overgrown with nettles, docks, and brier ;

No jaccacinths or eglintines appear.

And if, as is presumable, the name Worthy was given the proprietor, in compliment to Sir David Forbes, William has evidently been placed before it, in preference to any other Christian name, merely for the sake of alliteration. In 1784, after a visit, the proprietor received the following verses from Mr Bradefute author of the Statistical Account of Dunfyre, and late minister of that parish, a respectable and ingenious man, and who, from his intimacy with the late Sir James Clerk, was also well acquainted with whatever related to Ramsay's compositions, and to the Gentle Shepherd in particular. In these lines, the houses of Glaud and Symon are supposed to have been the cottage at the foot of Monk's Burn ; and that of Harleymuir, on the height on the other side

side of the water above the Steel, and not far from the Harbour Craig. The first is very old, and only the foundation of the last is to be discovered, a little to the east of the present one, seen from the lake. The verses are entitled, *A Morning Walk at New Hall in Mid-Lothian, the seat of Robert Brown, Esq; Advocate.*

Waked by the morning rays from fleeting dreams,
 I leave the couch inviting to repose,
 To trace the scenes which nature spreads around;
 To please the eye or animate the soul,
 With recollections drawn from ancient times.—
 We enter first the glen adorned with trees,
 Where varied shades and pleasing groves delight
 The warbling birds that perch on every spray.
 The lulling murmurs of the distant Esk,
 At bottom of the woods salutes the ear;
 Beyond, the rising heights covered with woods,
 And interspersed with jutting rocks, invite
 The eye to trace, in beauty's waving line,
 The vivid landscape, rich with deepening shades
 Which here o'erhang the glassy glittering stream,
 Till from the widening vale the country op's.—
 The winding path now leads us thro' the wood,
 Where Esk pours forth her silver flowing stream
 In sweet retirement, and sequestered shade.
 We then approach the opening of the trees
 Where now the rustic swain enjoys the banks,
 Happy and blythe, not far his humble Cot,
 Cloathed with the shining straw, whose white-washed walls
 Appear contrasted with the ivy's green.
 Before the door the partner of his cares
 Turns swift the wheel, and tunes the scottish song,

Eying

Eying afkance her young ones on the grafs,
Left they too near approach the river's bank ;
The cattle fpread around now browse the herbs,
Loaded with dews delightful to the tafte.
The watchful dog guards well the ripened corns,
And faves the treasure for his mafter's ufe.
Near this a pleasing riv'let glides along,
Falls from the height, and forms the bright cascade,
Where hollow rocks furround the foaming pool,
And form a fhade to fcreen the mid-day fun.—
From this we mount the bank to view the Lake,
With fhining furface drawn from chrystal fountains,
Land locked and fmooth, where oft the finny tribe
Rife at the glittering fly with eager hafte.—
We now return and trace the river's banks,
Studded with cowflips, and with copfe-woods crowned.
Beyond, the profpect's barren all and wild,
With hollow glens and deep fequeftered lawns.
Now all at once, far up another glen,
Midft awful folitudes and darkfome dells,
A high tremendous rock erefts his front :
On near approach we found it deeply mark'd,
With venerable names of thofe who fled,
In Charles's haplefs days, the haunts of men,
Pursued by unrelenting bands who fought
Their death, and waged ignoble war.
Here fad the preacher flood with folemn pause,
To mark, with outfretched arm, the fombre heath,
The field of fcottifh and of english wars ;
Or what more near concerned the liftening croud,
To point the fatal fpot on Pentland Hills,
Where many a ploughman warrior fought and fell.—
Slowly we turn and leave thefe gloomy fcenes,

Sacred to sighs and deepest heart felt woe,
 To seek the pleasing banks and purling rill
 Where copsewood thickets cheer the wandering eye,
 Where honeysuckle with the birch entwines.—
 We enter now from hence the western glen
 Through which the murm'ring Esk pours forth his stream,
 And view a past'ral and more pleasing scene,
 Sacred to fame, and deemed now Classic ground.
 'Twas here a beautiful recess was found ;
 And hence arose the scene of Habby's How ;
 Where now appears betwixt two birks the lin,
 That falling forms the pool where bathed the maids,
 Whilst here upon the green their cloath they laid.
 Here on a seat reclined, screened from the sun,
 By hazle shrubs and honeysuckle flowers
 You sit at ease and recollect the song,
 While sportive fancy imag'ry supplies.—
 Following the stream we view the happy spots,
 Where Glaucl and Symon dwelt in times of old,
 And passed the joke over the nut-brown ale ;
 Where old Sir William cheered poor Peggy's heart,
 And gave her yielding to her Patie's arms.—
 Thy pen, O Ramsay ! Sweetest pastoral bard !
 Alone was fit to paint the pleasing tale,
 And teach mankind the charms of rural life !

Among the best of Ramsay's smaller productions are, An Ode
 to Mr Forbes, and some verses on Mrs Forbes, late Lady New
 Hall, as she is called, according to the fashion of the time,
 whose maiden name, it appears, was Bruce. So fond he was
 of the place, that he begins his parody of one of Horace's
 Odes, as if seated at one of the front windows of the house,
 ' Look up to Pentland's tow'ring tops,' &c. and in an epistle

to

to Gay the poet, either from this, or Pennyquick, where his patrons, the Duke and Dutchess of Queensberry, have their portraits, and were intimately acquainted, he addresses him thus :

To thee frae edge of Pentland height,
Where fawns and fairies take delight,
And rival a' the live lang night
O'er glens and braes,
A bard that has the second sight
Thy fortune spaes.

This is the only place, in the neighbourhood of the Pentland Range. that looks up in front to these mountains. In the month of May, the bright green sward of the Spittal Hill is often, on this side, half covered and studded over with all the ewes of the farm, and their young ones, as white as snow, basking above the river, in the face of the sun, frisking and jumping about, or making the air resound with their bleatings; whilst the shepherd and his dog, laid on a neighbouring height, command the whole, and seek the cooling breeze. When, in a fine evening, from the front windows, in the month of July, the sun, with glowing clouds innumerable, inclines towards the western shoulder of the mountain, and his golden rays stream along its smooth and verdant surface, touching the slightest inequality, and deepening and extending every shadow; when at this time, the flock appears over the lawns and trees, from the other side, on its summit, and, spread like a white sheet, gradually contracting descends into the bughts, about mid-way down, where the milk-maids await, "and," as it is expressed in the 4th scene of the 2d act. "Rosie lilt the milking of the ewes," attended by the shepherd wrapt in his plaid, with his staff and his dog; it is impossible not to join in the request of the poet, in that beautiful old scottish melody, "Will yee go to the

“ewe bughts;” and a scene as rich, as truly pastoral and sublime, is frequently presented to the eye, as ever was painted by Claude le Lorrain, or Thomson could describe. From these circumstances, the manners, ideas, employments, language, and dress of the old inhabitants; the title of the former proprietor, by whom the house was built; Ramsay’s intimacy with his son, and attachment to the place; the shelter there given to the covenanters before the restoration, which is commemorated with so much loyalty and exultation in the comedy; the mention made in it of General Monk; the tradition as to the witch in the glen at Carlops; the corresponding scenery at Habbie’s How, and about the house; the number of streams, birches, rocks, cascades, and glens, with the natural shrubs, and flowers growing wild upon the banks, together with the superior verdure and beauty of the neighbouring hills, particularly those in the front of the house; the reader may easily trace, from whence have sprung almost all the incidents and pastoral scenery of the *Gentle Shepherd*, the most beautiful of our scottish poems.—That striking scenery produces a very powerful effect upon the imagination; and, when it becomes an object of attachment, must influence and give a corresponding character to the productions of a poet, as well as of a painter, is unquestionable. A collection of fine words may be made, and strung mechanically together, as occasion requires, into something like a picture; but, as it is the combination, and not the words themselves, that produces the effect, it is from the study of nature only we can acquire those impressions to be conveyed to the reader, in a striking description; and a poet, to excel in that branch of his art, must be alive to the charms of a good landscape; must collect from nature alone such objects as suit his purpose, in those places where the greatest number of them are to be met with; and in their distribution and colouring.

fouring, must follow the same rules that that painter does, who pursues the only road to fame, in a similar species of composition. If it is nature that is to be represented, either on paper or canvas, and a true likeness given, she must fit for her picture. In this case no violation of custom or incongruity can ever take place. All Shenstone's inscriptions, and many of his other poems, are mere expressions of the feeling excited by the scenes among which he lived, and in which he delighted; and in this view, as containing the originals from whence his engaging descriptions were drawn, the Arcadian simplicity of the Leasowes, has been a greater object of curiosity and interest, to people of genuine sensibility and taste, than places crowded with the most expensive ornaments. Besides the national concern every Scotchman in particular must have, in whatever relates to a performance, which, as a pastoral comedy, has not been surpassed, or perhaps equalled, in any language; in the same light, as the manners cannot be preserved, it was desirable to ascertain, at least, the spot from whence Ramsay had got those pastoral descriptions, and scenes, which are so inimitably and faithfully copied. Accordingly the Gentle Shepherd no sooner drew admiration, than every trifling streamlet, in the direction of the Pentland Hills, was honoured with a Habbie's How; and having once got the name fixed upon it, the whole scenery of the poem was applied to the neighbourhood, without producing any evidence, that Ramsay had ever resided in the place, or had ever an opportunity of seeing the spot itself. Some forgetting even that Habbie's How was a place, "Where a' the sweets of spring and summer grow," gave the name, as in the water of Glencroft, to a spot which has nothing peculiar in itself or neighbourhood; which is away from all inhabitants, bare, and surrounded with marshes; where there is scarcely a birch, or shrub, unless a stunted solitary thorn, or
rowan.

rowan sticking out, as if dropt, by accident, from a rock, deserves the name; where not a flower, but that of whins, where the soil is dry, is to be found; and which Ramsay, from having no apparent connection with it, or its neighbourhood, in all probability never saw, or even heard of, in his life. On this account, to remove the disagreeable and unpleasant sensations arising from every species of uncertainty, and as a matter of curiosity, it has been endeavoured to fix, with precision, from whence the scenes of the Gentle Shepherd were drawn. Although unconnected with the honour and history of Scotland, such a subject is amusing; and as a matter of curiosity may lead to improvement. Curiosity is one of our earliest and strongest incitements to action; it is the only road to wisdom; it is the prime mover of philosophers, as well as of children; it is lively, entertaining, and innocent in its gratification; and what is the end of all our pursuits, even the most important, but the gratification of some one of those passions or appetites arising from external objects, through the mediums of perception and emotion, which constitute the very essence of our being, and without which life itself is beyond our comprehension? At this time New Hall, Carlops, and Spittal, all belonged to Mr Forbes; and it is somewhat remarkable, that, while Allan Ramsay was encouraged by him, and Gay the poet was patronised by the intimate friends of Sir James Clark at Pennycuik, the Duke and Duchess of Queensberry, his cousin, President Forbes, was the chief support of Thomson, who might often have been here along with him, and was also distinguished for the accuracy and engaging simplicity, as well as richness, of his descriptions of rural life and scenery.

These properties, on the death of Mr Forbes, were disjoined, but are now again united; the farthest of the glens behind has been flooded, from the Harbour Craig upwards,
and

and the banks are about to be covered with wood. An enriched obelisk has been raised on the highest part of the lawn, betwixt and Mary's Bower, and a rustic hut near it, on a bold point on the brink of the glen. The inclosures and pleasure grounds, towards the road and hills in front, and the plantations have been much extended, both down to the lake and up towards the village, near which, on an eminence at the foot of the hills, a romantic and arcadian scite has been chosen, for a monument, to their favourite pastoral Bard. The pigeon-houses, chapel yard, offices, and railed-in court, are gone, the Rail now surrounding the house of Parson's Green, formerly Parson's Knows, that gave title to one Logan a juryman, on the trial of Archibald Douglas parson of Glasgow, for the murder of King Henry, (see Arnot's Trials). A square of offices are substituted for the old ones, and placed at the head of a new garden, above the other old one beyond the eastern recess. A large addition to the house, behind, with buttresses and pinnacles, and pointed windows, in the Gothic Chapel taste, from a design of the proprietor's own, is just completing. It looks over the bottom of the eastern ravine, and the flat part of the Steel, through the opening between the wooded point below the garden and the other side of the glen also covered with trees, to the higher bank of the river beyond, raised and darkened with pines that crosses it; and draws a screen between and the lake. The body of the house and wings remain, though much altered within, and the old finishing is still left entire, in what is called the Advocate's Room, the spaces that had been formerly covered with tapestry, being filled up with wooden pannels, similar to those on the other sides. On the ceiling of the stair-case is a vacant space, which was once occupied by a painting of Gaunymede and the Eagle, and two stone Busts of Pan and his wife scolding, well executed, are removed

ed from somewhere about the house, to the foot of the garden. Besides some copies in the rooms, are a landscape and thunder storm, with cattle and figures, by Tempesta, a view through a rock by Martorelli, a Moon Light by Vanderneer, a Piper by Teniers, St Francis in extacy by A. Carracci, a Mendicant by Spagniolet, &c. together with a Sea-piece of some merit, which is the only old ornament left in one of the walls above the fire-place. At Monk's Haugh a fulling mill and dyehouse, and below Harbour Craig a lint mill has been built. On the other side of the garden is a large field, called the Greenbrac-park, opposite to the Steel and Harleymuir, which descends to the river, fronting the south, and that has been about 50 years in grass. In consequence of a competition with two gentlemen in the lowest parts of East and Mid-Lothian as to the quality of their pastures, a Wedder of two years old, that had been bred on the Harleymuir, of the Linton black faced kind, was fed other two years in that field, getting the common run of the flock; and being killed in December 1787, one of the quarters, with the kidney, was produced, with those of the other two gentlemen's, at the French Tavern, Edinburgh; and was adjudged by a Club to which the parties belonged, as also by Mr Bayle, the landlord, to be the best of the three. The quarter, before roasting, with the kidney, was 24 lb. Dutch weight, and there was a stone, trone weight, of tallow, including all that was to be found in the inside of the whole Wedder. On the south side of the two rocks of Carlops, a small valley, called the Carlop's Dean, crosses the glen behind, in which the village stands. Opposite to the pass formed by the rocks, it is open and wide, and the south bank low and flat, with a hollow in it, called Charles's Nick. It is narrower, and the sides higher and steeper to the west, with the Carlop's Burn running through it, and to the east it gradually deepens, till it becomes

comes the second parallel glen behind the house. The Carlop's Glen connects it with the Esk at the village, making a pass between the two, and the glen, descending from the Harbour Craig, receives the stream at its lowest extremity, and unites them betwixt the house and the Steel. West from the rocks, the Dean runs along the foot of the Carlop's Hill its whole length, and assumes a pastoral and singular appearance. From the flat at the bottom rise three little green hills, at equal distances from each other, and also at equal distances from the two sides of the Dean, called the Holehaugh Know, Dun Kaim, and the Picket Craig. The first and last are almost perfect cones, covered with dry green turf, and of the same size, with this only difference, that the last is sharper than the other, with a rocky summit full of little caverns. Dun Kaim is triple the size of the end ones, is of a long oval shape, likewise covered with dry smooth turf, and in the middle is quite flat on the top. It, and the Holehaugh Know, are seen from the public road. All the high banks and scenery around, is of the same uniform verdure; and all the transitions, except the summit of the Picket Craig, and the sharp point of the Know, are gradual and undulating. On the middle top of Dun Kaim it is proposed to erect the monument to Ramsay. From the bank below the Carlop's Hill, between the Know and Dun Kaim, descends, in a high cascade, a small rivulet called the Lin Burn, that after running over strata of iron, and red and white limestone, immediately joins the Carlop's Burn, on the other side of the Dean. On the top of the same bank, opposite to Dun Kaim, and in a parallel direction, and at equal distances, are seven natural pits or excavations of different depths; and betwixt these and the Dean, the bank is composed of another stratum of lime stone, of a clouded mixture of greyish green, white, and pink colours. Farther on, and a little beyond the
Picket

Picket Craig, is a cavern, from whence issues a clear rill, which was made by a search for lead that was attended with some success, an old smith having seen some silver that had been extracted from it, but which was afterwards dropt. The little caves, on the steep summit of the Picket Craig, are so deep, that a hare being pushed by the greyhounds, in coursing, a few years ago, and having taken to one of them, was got out, with the assistance of a terrier, with the greatest difficulty. Over all these, fronting the south, rises with an arch, the Carlop's Hill; the same bank, however, continues behind one of the rocks, which is a projection from it to the Esk, and the inclined plain above it at the bottom of the hill, directly over the village, is called the Lead Flats. Out of the small district of country between this bank called Lead Flats, and a smooth round hill betwixt and Linton, called Leadlaw Hill, all the silver is said to have been got, from the lead found there, with which Mary of Guise, Queen Mary's mother, paid her troops, during the turbulence of her Regency. At the foot of the Dean, eastward, before it contracts and deepens into a glen, is a subterranean spring, called the Rumbling Well, which appears near half a mile south, on the other side of a lime quarry, where, in consequence of a dispute between two of the workmen, about 12 years ago, a glove being put into it, was carried all the way through, and came out at the place first mentioned. The stream belonging to the third glen, that meets the last one at the Harbour Craig, in consequence of the workings of the coal, although a much greater body of water, likewise disappears, about a quarter of a mile above that rock, and suddenly bursts out with a fall, almost in front of one of its sides. The lime-rock at the Rumbling Well is of a dark grey colour, almost black, with a great number of white shells, resembling skrew-nails, of different sizes, and is in such large blocks, and so solid, that

that one of the chimney pieces in the house made from it, has a polish equal to any foreign marble. Between the third parallel glen and the last one, is a very extensive field of coal now working behind that rock, called the Harbour Craig coal; and in the last glen is a stratum of freestone, different from those of Mairfield, and Monk's Burn, of a good quality. In the second glen, a crumbling freestone rock, the whole depth of the bank, produces a face of pure white sand, upon which nothing will grow. Between and the Rumbling Well, as also on the north side of the house, was found a large piece of diamond spar, and above the limestone, south of the well, is a thick bed of clay marl. In digging gravel, with which the little eminences are commonly filled, have been got, particularly on the east side of Monk's Burn, and between and the Spittal Hills, pebbles and bloodstones, some of which have been cut into very beautiful seals. Immediately above the chalybeate spring, or Monk's Burn, is a thin stratum of lime, with a bed of blue till over it, in which have been found the entire petrified shells mentioned elsewhere, most of which are in the proprietor's possession. Beyond the Spittal Hills, and on the side of the Esk at the foot of them, below the junction of two rivulets, is a small valley, with some little green mounts rising out of it; and at the extremity of the grounds to the north, on an eminence commanding the whole track of the Forth, from Inch Keith upwards, is a grey stone appearing above the heath, called the Boar Stane. On this side of the hills, though the shooting is much hurt by its proximity to the capital, there are a considerable number of grouse, as also on the Harleymuir to the south. In the Esk there is good fishing, though most of the trouts are small; but in the Mairfield Loch are some large fish, and the perches are in such abundance, that two rods have been known to catch 24 dozen in a couple of hours. The partridges are

plenty, particularly in the spots of corn a little way up the hills, from whence, as they always fly downwards, they are easily marked in. There are numbers of snipes in the rushy places below, and the hares are very numerous, but afford little sport, from the proximity of the woods, glens, and hills, to one or other of which they take, immediately on being started. The indigenous plants are chiefly oak, ash, elm, aspen, Scotch pine, and spruce fir, which are beginning to sow themselves; birch, which is the prevailing wood, rowan, green, fallow, alder, birdcherry, hazle, black and white thorn, of the last of which, in particular, there are some very beautiful and venerable bushes, elder, brier, juniper, bramble, rasp, honeysuckle, ivy, common and evergreen bilberry, cranberry, crowberry, the *carduus helenioides*, and on the top of the Carlop's Hill, which is the only one of the Pentland range on which it is to be met with, the cloudberry. The animals are, foxes, hares, a few rabbits, ermines, weasels, moles, rats, common and shrew mice, adders, scaly lizards, the common lizard, toads, frogs, &c. and bats are seen fluttering giddily about in the evenings. At times are seen gulls from the Frith, also, overhead, wild swans and geese, and a variety of the white dunghill fowl, with large crest and comb, has appeared with 11 toes. On the lake is the wallard, teal, *colymbus auritus*, one of the dobchicks. On the streams, the heron, water rail, water ouzel, sandpiper, and wagtails. On the marshes, the snipe, the woodcock in winter, the reed sparrow, the marsh titmouse. On the rocks, the ring ouzel, which has a few shrill plaintive notes, and very much the appearance and manner of a blackbird, and the stonechatter. On the moors are grouse; one of these being almost shot to pieces, its stomach was entirely filled with white moths, very common among long heath, curlews, lapwings, and grey plovers. On the fields, the hen harrier, partridges, land rails,

sky

sky larks, corn buntings, snow buntings, field fares, mountain finches, and the goatsucker, or night swallow. In the hedges, common and hedge sparrows. In the woods, the buzzard, sparrow hawk, jay, magpie, crow, ring-dove, of which there are great numbers, cuckoo; a young cuckoo was seen at the head of Monk's Burn, flying after a titlark, from which it got the signals when to keep out of danger; by following his guardian and guide; it was also frequently observed feeding him, when the little nurse, to get at his mouth, generally leapt on his back, and made him turn round his head, which was as big as the other's whole body. The crossbill, attracted by the cones of the spruce, the plates of which, to get at the seed, are found in numbers folded back with great dexterity; the bullfinch, stirring, thrush, blackbird, redbreast, linnet, all the finches, and titmice, including the blue and the long tailed one, also a very small and beautiful bird, the creeper, like a little mouse running up the trees for insects; the yellow, common and golden crested wrens; the swallows about the house, in summer, and in the woods, at nights, the owl, horned and smooth. In 1784, a hoopoe was shot by a gentleman, in coming here from the Whim, in the Parish of Newlands, a little to the south,

To the above Appendix the following observations are requested to be added: After the word *describo*, page 618, line 3, add, The wawking of the faulds, gives the tune to the very first song which opens the play under consideration, and was naturally pitched upon, where such an occurrence is also often and so strikingly exhibited,—p. 601, l. 5, for freight read

read fright.—do. line 7. for proprietors, read proprietor.—p. 603, l. 24, for hill read rill.—p. 608, l. 9, for south-east and north-west, read south-west and north-east.—p. 605, for fruis casis, read fruiscaris.—p. 617, l. 7. for rival read revel.—do. l. 22, for inclines read declines.—After the word scenery, p. 620, read the following sentence: Ramsay was an enthusiast in scottish music, and besides his own, which are numerous, he has made a large collection of songs wrote by others of his countrymen; and it was in all probability from his connections with him, that Gay, whose genius, originally, seems to have been of a very similar cast, has shown his attachment to our tunes in his celebrated play of the Beggar's Opera.—To the description of Leadlaw Hill, add, And the excavations made in consequence of working the metals, at the southern extremity on the north side of the Leadlaw Hill, are still called by the inhabitants, the filler (silver) holes.

NUMBER II.

ADDENDA,

Relative to the Account of the Parish of Latheron, in Caithness,
page 24.

On the celebrated estate of Langwell is the FOREST, or ORD of Caithness, of which there is the following account in M^r Farlane's Geographical Collections M. S. in the Advocate's Library.

THE hill of the Ord is that which divides Sutherland and Caithness. The march is a small rivulet, called *The Burn of the Ord of Caithness*, which takes its rise from some springs near the top of the hill. The south side of the hill is very steep, sloping all along to the top of a rock, which is many fathoms high. Cross the south side of this hill is the common passage to and from this country. The road hath not been so very dangerous, as at first view it would appear to the traveller; for the whole face of the hill, to the top of the rock, has been covered with long heath; so that, though a person's foot might slip, he was not in great danger; but whether, through moor-burning, or some other accident, it hath happened some few years ago, that the heath was all burnt, and now it looks more frightful than formerly; but the road, by the pains of SIR

JAMES

‘ JAMES SINCLAIR of Dunbeath, is made so broad, that 3
‘ horses can conveniently ride it abreast. A little to the east
‘ of the Burn of the Ord, which is the march, there is a
‘ pleasant green moat, called the Dungalas, as high as the
‘ top of the rock. Since the heath was burnt, passengers,
‘ who observe, may see the vestiges of a ditch, digged up
‘ from the morasses, about a mile above the top of the fore-
‘ said rock. The top of the Ord is large 9 miles, of bad
‘ road, to the south-west of the church.’

N U M-

NUMBER XLIV.

PARISH OF TIBBERMUIR.

(PRESBYTERY AND COUNTY OF PERTH.—SYNOD OF
PERTH AND STIRLING).

By the Rev. Mr JOHN INGLIS, Minister.

Name.

AMONG strangers, and in the common almanacks of the country, the name of this parish is *Tippermuir*; but the orthography adopted in the title, which is universally in use among the inhabitants, is abundantly justified by ancient writings, and the probable etymology of the name. In a charter granted to the monastery of Scone, in the reign of William the Lion *, it is written with the Latin termination *Tibbirmara*; and in Fordun's History of Scotland, it is *Tybirmore*: Conformably to this ancient orthography, the name is understood to be compounded of two Gaelic words, *tuber* and *more*, which signify a large well, referring probably to a plentiful spring of water immediately adjoining to the church-yard.

Extent, Situation, and Surface.—The parish is, from east to west, about 6 miles long; and its breadth varies from one to three miles. It is bounded on the east by the parish of Perth;
on

* See the chartulary of Scone in the Advocate's Library.

on the north, the river *Almond* separates it from the parish of Redgorton, and a brook called the *Pow*, from that of Methven; on the west, it is bounded by the parish of Gask, and on the south, by those of Forteviot and Aberdalgy. The surface, without being hilly, is considerably diversified. Towards the west, it exhibits a gentle slope from south to north, terminating in a narrow track of level ground; and towards the east, the greater part of the fields being somewhat raised above the level of the Almond, communicate, by a steep descent, with a delightful plain along the banks of the river.

Climate and Diseases.—The air, though rather moist, is not accounted unhealthy; and it deserves particular notice, that here, as well as in the neighbouring parishes, the ague, which, from time immemorial, had been the most common disease of the country, has, within these 20 years, completely disappeared, without any natural cause, of sufficient importance, being hitherto assigned for it.

Acres, Soil, Proprietors, and Cultivation.—The parish contains about 4670 Scotch acres; of these 185 are under wood; 96 are part of an extensive moss, which furnishes the surrounding inhabitants with peats for fuel; 100 more are in the state of uncultivated heath; and the remainder, about 4289, are all arable ground.

The cultivated land contains several varieties of soil. Towards the east, upon the banks of the Almond, it is a sandy loam; near to the town of Perth, somewhat of a clayey consistence; and upon the higher grounds, more light and thin, with a gravelly bottom. Towards the west, the bottom is rather cold, and generally tilly, which occasions many of the fields to be wet; but the surface soil is, notwithstanding, tolerably fertile; and though, in some places, it partakes a
little

little of the nature of moss, the greater part may be classed under one or other of the different kinds of loam.

The whole parish, excepting about 500 acres, is the property of the Duke of Athol and the Earl of Kinnoull; and the land is cultivated by about 60 farmers, great and small, in a thriving condition. In no place, perhaps, are the late rapid improvements in agriculture more remarkably exemplified than in this particular parish. About 30 years ago, it was distinguished by its poverty; at present, its surface exhibits to the eye a rich and fertile prospect, and the increased wealth of the inhabitants very properly appears in their improved manner of living. It is also pleasant to remark, that the spirit for agricultural improvement still appears to keep pace with, if it does not even anticipate, the farmer's acquisition of wealth. In one particular view, indeed, the character of the farmer's mind has undergone a most important and happy change: Formerly, he was so obstinately prejudiced in favour of the practice of his fathers, that he could not listen, without a sneer, to any suggestion relative to new improvements; now his prejudices are so completely removed, that he is eager to know and understand whatever improvements others are attempting, and even to adopt such as appear to be reasonable, though at first upon that small scale which prudence undoubtedly dictates. What better subject could the Agricultural Society desire to cultivate, than a farmer's mind in this particular state *!

VOL. XVII.

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The

* While the present proprietors vie with one another, in promoting this laudable spirit, it is impossible not to remember the late Earl of Kinnoull, as the father of agricultural improvement, in that extensive district of the parish, which, from its local situation, and other circumstances, appeared least susceptible of such melioration. By a liberal treatment of his tenants;

The principal crops are oats, barley or bear, and clover with rye-grass. Wheat also, though not hitherto universally cultivated, is becoming every year more common. A prejudice was long entertained against sowing wheat upon fields that are naturally wet, from an idea that such a soil, when swelled with the winter rains, would be apt to cast out the roots of the young plants; but experience has clearly shewn that this objection, however specious in theory, is not entitled to much practical regard;—where early sowing has been attended to, the wetness of the soil has seldom, if ever, proved fatal to the crop of wheat. Pease and beans having been found precarious crops, are rather less cultivated than they were some time ago. Turnips, though not altogether neglected, are neither a general crop, nor raised in great quantities. Where the fields are wet, the farmer is afraid of poaching the soil, in carting them off during the winter; besides, the consumption of the butcher market of Perth is by no means equal to the supply of fat cattle which the wide and rich country around is capable of affording; and many farmers, who might otherwise have large fields of turnips, are thereby induced to content themselves with such a quantity as they find to be useful in rearing their young stock. The quantity of potatoes is inconsiderable, being cultivated chiefly for family use. Flax is by no means a crop high in the farmer's estimation; besides the trouble attending it, it

has

tenants;—by granting them improving leases upon moderate terms;—by lodging them in more comfortable houses than had been formerly allowed to people of their condition;—by personal attentions, in which he did not fail to distinguish the most deserving;—by manifesting, equally in his words and actions, the interest he felt in their prosperity;—he infused into them a spirit superior to their former condition, gradually enlarged their views, raised, in some sense, their rank in society, and thus prepared them to devise and execute such plans of improvement as man, in a more depressed situation, will never attempt.

has the peculiar disadvantage of adding nothing to the dung-hill, which must undoubtedly be an important objection with farmers who purchase dung in the town of Perth, at the rate of 3 s. or 4 s. for the cart load, and afterwards carry it in some instances five or six miles *.

Since the late rapid introduction of fallow, wheat, clover, &c. in this parish, there has not been sufficient time for any particular rotation of crops obtaining such a decided preference, as to be universally adopted; but the following is the rotation most likely to prevail:—*1st*, year, fallow;—*2^d*, wheat, with the whole dung of the farm, and also lime occasionally;—*3^d*, pease, or clover and rye-grass, and perhaps a few turnips, which are found to answer tolerably well without dung;—*4th*, barley or bear;—*5th*, clover and rye-grass;—*6th*, oats †.

The implements of husbandry have been gradually improving for many years. The old Scotch plough, indeed, long maintained its ground in opposition to a variety of others, which were successively tried and abandoned; but an English plough, with a mould-board of cast metal, which was lately

* Lime is the only other manure used in the parish, and is procured at a reasonable rate, at the port of Perth.

† One objection, indeed, seems already to occur against this mode of management, and may hereafter have influence. Repeated fallows, that admit of no crop for the season, are not perhaps absolutely necessary for the mere purpose of keeping the land clean, provided that green crops, and particularly drill crops, be judiciously introduced; and though it should even be found impossible, upon some soils, to raise a good crop of wheat without a previous fallow; it may admit of a question, whether a crop of barley in place of the wheat, together with a green crop in place of the fallow, might not be more valuable than the crop of wheat that would be thereby superseded; and whether the land might not also remain in equally good, if not better condition.

lately introduced, has obtained a decided preference, and is now almost universally in use*.

Upon the wet grounds, the seed time is often retarded by rains. In the year 1795, many of the farmers had it not in their power to begin the sowing of oats till the month of May; but this year, viz. 1796, some oats have been sown in the first week of March—the one the latest, and the other perhaps the earliest seed time that is remembered. In ordinary seasons, the sowing of oats is begun in the first week of April, barley in the first week of May, and wheat about the middle of September. The improvement of the soil, and the practice of a more regular husbandry, have rendered our harvest season somewhat earlier than formerly. It is common to begin cutting wheat about the end of August; barley in the beginning of September; and the other corn in course, without intermitting the harvest work. The average crop of oats upon a Scotch acre is 5 bolls; of barley 7; of wheat 9, all Linlithgow measure. About 1 boll and 2 pecks of oats produce a boll of meal. The average price of oat meal, barley, and pease, is 15 s. for the boll; of wheat, one guinea †.

Nearly all the farms are inclosed and subdivided with ditches and hawthorn hedges, but all the inclosures of this kind are hitherto insufficient; and this, it is believed, must continue to be the case, till much more effectual means be employed for protecting and rearing the young hedges, and especially for saving their shoots from being cropped by the farmer's

* The plough alluded to does not appear to have any distinguishing name that is generally known. It is not Small's plough.

† These may perhaps be accounted the average prices, without making allowance for the extraordinary prices of crops 1794 and 1795.

farmer's cattle. At present, the insufficiency of the inclosures appears to be attended with less inconvenience, because there is very little of the land in the state of pasturage; but perhaps the want of sufficient inclosures is one great reason why the pasture fields are so few; for wherever there is inclosed ground in the neighbourhood, the proprietor finds it in his power, by keeping it in pasture, and letting it annually for the season, to draw such a high rent as is out of all due proportion to the rent of corn land.

The valued rent of the parish is 4921 l. Scotch money*; the real rent, about 3200 l. Sterling. The average rent of the Scotch acre is about 15 s. Sterling.

Manufactures.—To the enterprise and industry of very early times †, we are indebted for a large canal or water-lead, drawn from the river Almond, which intersects an extensive meadow, called Ruthven or Huntingtower-haugh, in the east end of the parish; and the peculiar advantage which this affords for manufacturing establishments, has been very industriously improved within these late years. One of the first manufactures attempted here was that of paper; and at the mill erected for this purpose, Morison and Lindsay of Perth at present keep two vats employed in the manufacture chiefly of the coarser articles, such as cartridge, blue, and other packing papers; the quantity manufactured in one year is from 5000 to 6000 reams, and the number of persons employed in the work from 25 to 30. The canal, however, and the adjacent grounds, offered more distinguished advantages

* In the cess-books of the county, the valued rent of this parish is stated somewhat higher, because some lands, which are now considered as belonging to another parish, are there included in the calculation.

† See the article *Antiquities*.

tages to the manufacturer in other departments; and accordingly a bleachfield, under the firm of Richardson and Co. whose buildings and machinery were erected here in the year 1775, has become a very large and important concern. The brown cloth to be bleached is brought chiefly from Perth, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, and Glasgow; but such is the increasing character of the field, and the high reputation of the acting partner of the company, that, for some years past, a considerable quantity of diapers in particular, have been regularly sent to him from Darlington in England. About 70 Scotch acres are commonly covered with cloth, and the work employs or maintains about 100 men, women, and children. There are also some other fields in this parish, employed as bleaching ground, in connection with a work, whose buildings and machinery are in the parish of Perth*. And it ought not, perhaps, here, to remain unserved, that at present the quantity of cloth bleached in the neighbourhood of Perth, far exceeds the quantity that is woven or otherwise manufactured in the town and district around. This would lead us to presume, either that there must be something in the situation peculiarly favourable to the operation of bleaching, or that nothing is wanted but equal enterprise in the other departments: And that the last supposition may be the just one, is rendered probable, by the uncommon success of some late attempts, of which a remarkable example naturally presents itself in the case of a printfield, under the firm of *Young, Ross, Richardson, and Caw*†, which was established in this parish upon the same canal, so lately as the year 1792, and has already become an object of such importance, as to be entitled to a distinguished place

in

* Tulloch bleachfield, upon the same canal.

† Ruthven printfield.

in this statistical report. A bleachfield upon a small scale gave way to this more important work on the site of it; and additional ground having been procured, as well as additional houses erected, the work already employs about 250 men, women, and children. The spirit and success, with which the business is here conducted, may be judged of by the following instance: In the year 1793, when the general stagnation of credit, and the want of market for cotton goods in particular, induced many of the principal manufacturers, either to dismiss a part of their working people, or to restrict their employment to 3 or 4 days in the week, the managers of this printfield, though then but an infant Company, rejected such an expedient, and at the same time adopted another well worthy of being imitated, if the same necessity should again occur. Instead of dismissing any of their people, or restricting their days of working, they made a small reduction, for the time, in the rate of wages, which enabled them more easily to keep the usual number of hands in constant employment; and while, in this way, the earnings of the working people were less impaired, the full benefit of their industry was preserved to the public, and the vices that arise from idleness happily prevented. This work derives much advantage from the staple manufacture of the country around being cloth of such kinds as are adapted to the purpose of printing, and from a safe, regular, and expeditious conveyance of goods to the London market, by means of the small vessels that are employed in carrying salmon from the port of Perth. Besides these things, the whole country around Perth affords peculiar encouragement to manufacturers of every description, from the average prices of corn and butcher's meat being here considerably lower than in the west of Scotland, which is at present the principal seat of manufactures,—an advantage naturally derived from the superior extent

extent and fertility of the country, compared to the population of the town and its neighbouring villages. The high price of coals is perhaps the only peculiar disadvantage that attends the manufacture of this district; and even this disadvantage has been considerably lessened by the wisdom of the Legislature, in abolishing the duty upon sea-borne English coals.

Wages.—The average yearly wages of a ploughman are 9 l. and of a maid servant 3 l. with board or maintenance to each; the average day wages of a callico printer are 3 s. of a bleacher 1 s. *; of an ordinary labourer 1 s. and 2 d. all without board.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, which is an old building, has been lately repaired and rendered convenient. The manse was built in the year 1744, and has been repaired at different times. The stipend, in consequence of a late augmentation, consists of 8 chalders of meal and beer, and 35 l. sterling, together with 100 l. Scots of communion element-money. The King is patron. The ministers, from the reformation downwards, have been Alexander Young †, Alexander Balneavis, sen. Alexander Balneavis, jun. †, David Meldrum,

* Bleachers have commonly in their power to earn somewhat more, by working some hours extraordinary.

† Mr Alexander Young was prior of the Carmelite Monastery of Tullilum, (mentioned under the head of antiquities) and, upon embracing the reformed religion, was admitted minister of Tibbermuir. See *Perth Hospital Records*.

‡ It is worthy of observation, that Messrs Balneavis, father and son, were ministers of this parish for the space of 100 years, notwithstanding that the son did not die minister here, but was removed at the period of the revolution. See *Perth Presbytery Records*.

Meldrum, Patrick Duncan, Alexander Duff, and John Inglis, the present incumbent.

State of the Poor.—There are no begging poor in the parish; but there are commonly about 12 pensioners on the roll of the kirk session, to whom every allowance is made for rendering them comfortable, that would not operate to the discouragement of industry. Besides the interest of 60 l. Sterling, and the collections at the church, &c. a small parochial assessment is made for their better support; one half of which is paid by the heritors, and the other by the farmers, &c. the mode of the assessment being regulated by an act and recommendation of the country, founded upon the different acts of Parliament relative to the poor. It is pleasant to remark, that the kirk-session never find cause to reject any application for charity, none being ever made without real necessity:—Long may the lower classes of people in Scotland be distinguished by that laudable pride of independence, which makes them struggle, to the last, to maintain themselves on the fruit of their labour, rather than depend, unnecessarily, on the charity of others!

Table of Population, &c.

Number of souls in 1755,	988
1796,	1280
Males	630
Females	650
Under 10 years of age	336
From 10 to 20	257
From 20 to 50	536
From 50 to 70	129
From 70 to 80	20
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	Upwards

Upwards of 80	-	-	-	2
Families	-	-	-	271
Married persons	-	-	-	396
Widowers	-	-	-	20
Widows	-	-	-	33
Unmarried householders	-	-	-	20
Antiburghers	-	-	-	302
Burghers *	-	-	-	22
Masons	-	-	-	11
Wrights	-	-	-	21
Weavers	-	-	-	14
Shoemakers	-	-	-	6
Tailors	-	-	-	7
Male farm-servants	-	-	-	114
Female-servants	-	-	-	65
Horses	-	-	-	290
Cattle	-	-	-	766
Sheep	-	-	-	31
Swine	-	-	-	14
Carts	-	-	-	175
Ploughs	-	-	-	109

Antiquities.—The canal, already mentioned under the article of *manufactures*, can be traced to a very early period, which, compared with the nature of the work, must give it importance in the view of the antiquary. It is nearly 18 feet broad, 3 feet deep, and, according to the course of the water, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles long; and though its source be in this parish, through which it also runs for about 3 miles, it appears to have been originally intended for the benefit of the

* There are a few dissenters of other classes than the two above mentioned.

the town of Perth, where it not only serves the corn-mills, and supplies the inhabitants with water, but has also contributed, probably, in former times, to strengthen the fortifications of the place; for, when it approaches Perth, it divides itself into two branches, which surround the town in a deep bed, close to the site of the ancient walls. But it is chiefly in its connection with the corn-mills, that we are enabled to trace its antiquity. The mills of Perth, as served by this canal, or lead, having been originally the property of the kings of Scotland, are mentioned by them in several very ancient charters; and in the year 1244, we find Alexander II. granting to the Monastery of Black Friars of Perth, a pipe of water from this canal, which he there denominates *his Mill-lead*, conformably to the name of *The King's Lead*, which it still bears*. Upon this evidence alone, the canal in question may undoubtedly be ranked among the earliest work of utility in our country, of which we still enjoy the advantage. It is difficult, indeed, to give credit to our own ancestors at so early a period, for all the enterprise and industry which it required. And when we recollect its probable design, originally, as an aid to the fortifications of Perth, it will not perhaps be unnatural to suppose it a *Roman* work;—at least, this idea will not appear improbable to those, who, from different circumstances, and particularly from the form and arrangement of the streets of Perth, ascribe the town itself to the Romans†.

Hunting-

* See the chartulary of the black friars of Perth in the Archives of King James's Hospital there.

† Whatever there may be in this supposition respecting the canal, it appears to derive some additional countenance from the family-history of the Mercers of Aldie, which enables us, as far as we may consider it authentic, to trace the corn mills of Perth, and consequently this canal or lead upon which they depended, to a period, at least, considerably earlier than the year

Huntingtower Castle, formerly Ruthven Castle, which is situated in this parish, may perhaps be entitled to attention, as the ancient seat of the Ruthven or Gowrie family, so remarkable for its singular and mysterious catastrophes: But no event which has been the ground of so much controversy, as that which is known by the name of *Gowrie's Conspiracy*, is evidently too great a subject, either for examination or detail

1244 above mentioned. Upon the authority of tradition, and some inscriptions of uncertain date, together with the circumstance of three mill-rynds being still a part of the Mercers' arms, it is generally believed, by those who have inquired into the subject, that the corn-mills served by this canal were originally the property of that family, and granted by them to the king, who, in return, gave them a burial-place in the church of Perth, which the family still possess. And if we compare these circumstances with a charter of confirmation granted by David I. to the Abbey of Dunfermline in the year 1140, (See Sir James Dalrymple's Collections) we find that the transaction alluded to, must have taken place, and consequently, that the canal itself must have existed, prior to the date of this charter: For the king, therein, either gives away for the first time, or confirms what his predecessors had done in giving away, the whole property of the church of Perth to that Abbey, in whose possession it accordingly remained till the period of the reformation; and consequently, the royal grant of a burial-place in that church to the family of Aldie, as a return for their gift of the mills served by this canal, must have been of earlier date than the year 1140, from which period the church and its appendages were no longer at the disposal of the kings of Scotland. If this sort of evidence, then, can warrant us to believe that the canal in question belonged to the Mercers of Aldie before the year 1140, there also arises strong presumption of its having been a work of still earlier execution; for the nature and design of the work will scarce admit of our believing it to have been originally executed by the Mercers, or any private family whatever, but naturally lead to a supposition of its having been, in the first instance, a public concern, which, from circumstances now unknown, had at length come into the hands of a private family, perhaps only as far as regarded its connection with the corn-mills.

in the Statistical Report *. The castle itself is more particularly distinguished, as the place where King James VI. was for some time confined by the Earl of Gowrie, and others, who had entered into a combination for taking the young King out of the hands of his two early favourites, the lately-created Duke of Lennox and Earl of Arran. James, after having resided for some time in Athol, where he enjoyed his favourite amusement of hunting, was now returning towards Edinburgh, with a small train. He was invited to Ruthven Castle, which lay in his way; and, as he suspected no danger, he went thither in hopes of farther sport. The multitude of strangers whom he found there gave him some uneasiness; and as those who were in the secret arrived every moment from different parts, the appearance of so many new faces increased his fears. He concealed his uneasiness, however, with the utmost care; and next morning prepared for the field; expecting to find there some opportunity of making his escape; but just as he was ready to depart, the nobles entered his bed-chamber in a body,

The tradition of the country upon this subject is preserved in a paper written by the late Mr Alexander Duff minister of this parish, and presented by him to the Antiquarian Society of Perth. And it may here suffice to observe farther, respecting this family, whose general history is incorporated with that of the nation, that, from their ancient proper names, as these are found in charters of early date, they appear to have been of Danish extraction. In a charter, (formerly quoted) granted to the monastery of Scone by Walter the Lord of Ruthven, in the reign of William the Lion, he is denominated the son of *Alon*, grandson of *Suene*, and great-grandson of *Thore*; and it is also perhaps worthy of notice, in this view, that the lord of a rivulet, which runs through the ancient manor of this family, and has now scarce any distinguishing name, is, in the same charter, denominated the Ford of *Lochlin*, which is known to be an ancient name for *Denmark*. The family is now represented by Lord Ruthven of Freeland.

body, and presented a memorial against the illegal and oppressive actions of his two favourites, whom they represented as most dangerous enemies to the religion and liberties of the nation. James, though he received their remonstrance with the complaisance that was necessary in his present situation, was extremely impatient to be gone; but as he approached the door of his apartment, the Tutor of Glamis rudely stopped him. The King complained, expostulated, threatened, and finding all these without effect, burst into tears. 'No matter, said Glamis, fiercely, "better children weep than bearded men." These words made a deep impression on the king's mind, and were never forgotten. The conspirators, without regarding his tears or indignation, dismissed such of his followers as they suspected, allowed none but their own party to have access to him; and though they treated him with great respect, guarded his person with the utmost care. This enterprise is usually called by our historians, *The Raid of Raraburgh*. Those concerned in the transaction were afterwards declared guilty of high treason.

An extraordinary exploit of a fair lady has likewise added to the renown of this ancient castle, and has given the name of *The Maiden's Leap*, to the space between its two towers; which, though united by late buildings, were originally separate. A daughter of the first Earl of Gowrie was courted by a young gentleman of inferior rank, whose pretensions were not countenanced by the family. When a visitor at the castle, he was always lodged in a separate tower from the young lady. One night, however, before the doors were shut, she conveyed herself into her lover's apartment; and some prying Duenna, acquainted the Countess with it, who cutting

* Dr William Robertson's Hist. of Scotland.

cutting off, as she thought, all possibility of retreat, hastened to surprise them. The young lady's ears were quick,—she heard the footsteps of the old Countess, ran to the top of the leads, and took the desperate leap of 9 feet 4 inches over a chasm of 60 feet, and luckily lighting on the battlements of the other tower, crept into her own bed, where her astonished mother found her, and, of course, apologised for her unjust suspicion. The fair daughter did not choose to repeat the leap, but the next night, eloped and was married.*

After the forfeiture of the last Earl of Gowrie, this castle and the adjoining manor, were bestowed by King James VI. upon the family of Tullibardine, now united, by marriage, to the family of Athol, in whose possession they still remain; but as all idea of continuing this for a seat of family-residence has been for some time abandoned, the Duke has very wisely availed himself of the advantage which the local situation affords for the different manufactures already described; and such is the change in the circumstances of the place, concurring with the genius of the times, that the same castle, in which the proud and powerful baron once confined his king as a prisoner, is now quietly occupied by a colony of calico-printers.

Tibbermuir was, at an early period, the residence of several bishops of Dunkeld, particularly of Bishop Geoffrey, and Bishop Sinclair, who both died here, the one in the year 1249, the other in 1337†. During their times, too, the principal

* Pennant's Tour.

† Fordun's Hist. of Scotland, and Mill's M. S. Lives of the Bishops of Dunkeld.

From the following language of Fordun, Bishop Geoffrey appears to have been eminently distinguished by his munificence, and attention to the interests of his Diocese: 'Hoc etiam an-

principal place of worship belonging to this parish, was the church of St Servanus *, (commonly called St Serf's Chapel) situated on the north side of the river Almond, and according to modern boundaries within the parish of Redgorton. The desertion of this church is ascribed, by tradition, to the melancholy accident of a child of the Lord of Ruthven, who had been baptised there, having, on the way home, been drowned in the Almond.

At *Tulliallan* too, in the east end of this parish, there was once a convent of Carmelites, but the name of the founder is not preserved. Our best information respecting this place

is

* no, obiit Episcopus Galfridus, in die Sanctae Ceciliae, apud Tybirmore, et in Ecclesia Dunkeldensi tumulatur; quam Praedictis et possessionibus dolavit, quam Regulis et Institutis infortavit, quam vestibus et ornamentis decoravit, quam fere per omnia exaltavit.

Bishop Sinclair's name, however, is still better known in history, and the honours that adorn it are not of an ecclesiastical kind alone. A *military exploit*, that he performed in the glorious reign of Robert Bruce, so delighted that wife and valiant prince, that he ever afterwards called him *his Bishop*. Edward II, the English King, taking advantage of the absence of Robert, who was then in Ireland, had sent a great army into Scotland to take revenge for the losses of former years; and the English, having been thrice defeated by Douglas governor of the borders, had recourse to the expedient of sending a naval force into the Forth, to infest and plunder the coast. To check the progress of those who had disembarked, Duncan Earl of Eise assembled 500 men, and marched at their head towards the enemy; but having observed their vast superiority in number, he was returning homeward, leaving the country at the mercy of the English, when Bishop Sinclair, with about 60 attendants, fortunately met him. Ashamed of the Earl's timidity, the Bishop laid hold of a lance, and called, with a loud voice, upon all the friends of their country to follow him. Being readily obeyed, he charged the enemy with such vigour, that he quickly routed them; and those who escaped from the field of battle, having precipitately fled to their ships, many of them were drowned in their hurry to embark. *Buchanan, Maitland, &c.*

* Mill's M. S. Lives of the Bishops of Dunkeld.

is derived from Keith's Lives of the Bishops, where we learn that Richard Inverkeithing Bishop of Dunkeld built here a chapel and a house in 1261, and that the Synods of the Diocese met here till 1460, when Thomas Lauder Bishop of Dunkeld removed them to his own cathedral.

Tibbermuir has also given its name to the first battle that was fought between the Marquis of Montrose and the Covenanters, though the field of battle is perhaps as much, if not more, within the parish of Aberdalgy, which at this place approaches very near to the church of Tibbermuir. Before the engagement, the Covenanters were addressed by one of their enthusiastic preachers, in a manner suited to the genius of the times. 'If ever God, said he, spoke a word of truth out of my mouth, I promise you, in his name, assured victory this day;' but the event was not of a kind to justify much future confidence in his promises;—the Covenanters, amounting to about 6000 foot, and 600 horse, were completely vanquished by about 1700 half-armed Highlanders and Irish, who left 2000 of them dead in the field, and took 2000 prisoners.

Character of the People, &c.—The sobriety of the people may be in some measure inferred from the single circumstance, that there is only one ale-house, or whisky-shop, in the parish. Their industry, too, may be accounted considerable, from what has been said of their agriculture and manufactures; and if their minister's report can be received as impartial evidence, they are no less distinguished by Christian charity, in the different branches of that cardinal virtue.

The only peculiar disadvantage of outward situation, under which they labour, is that of bad roads; and if some speedy and effectual method of improving them could be adopted, the relief would be great indeed! In the mean